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HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE

MARK WAID
JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ
WITH ÁLVARO LÓPEZ

MARVEL

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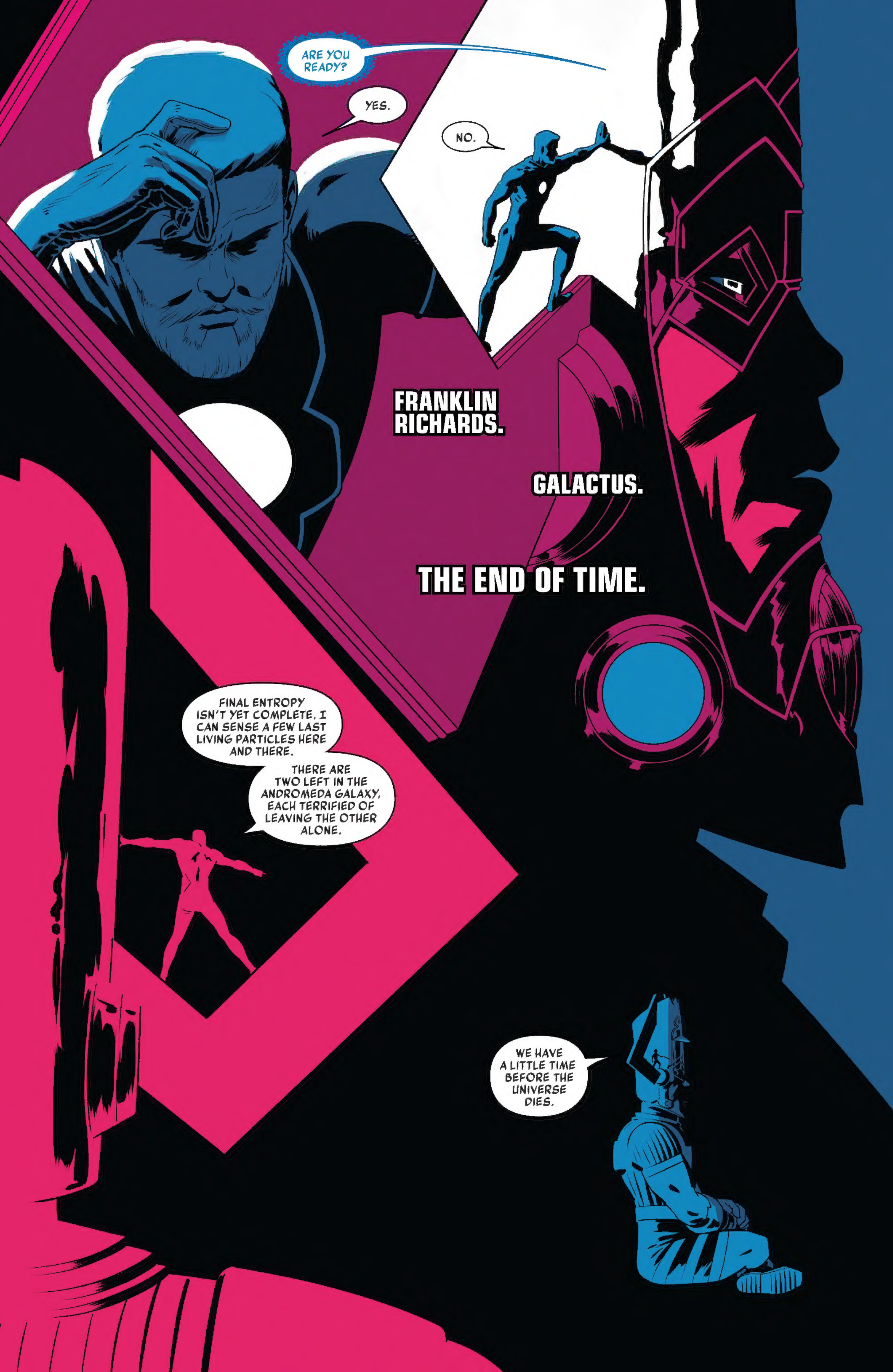
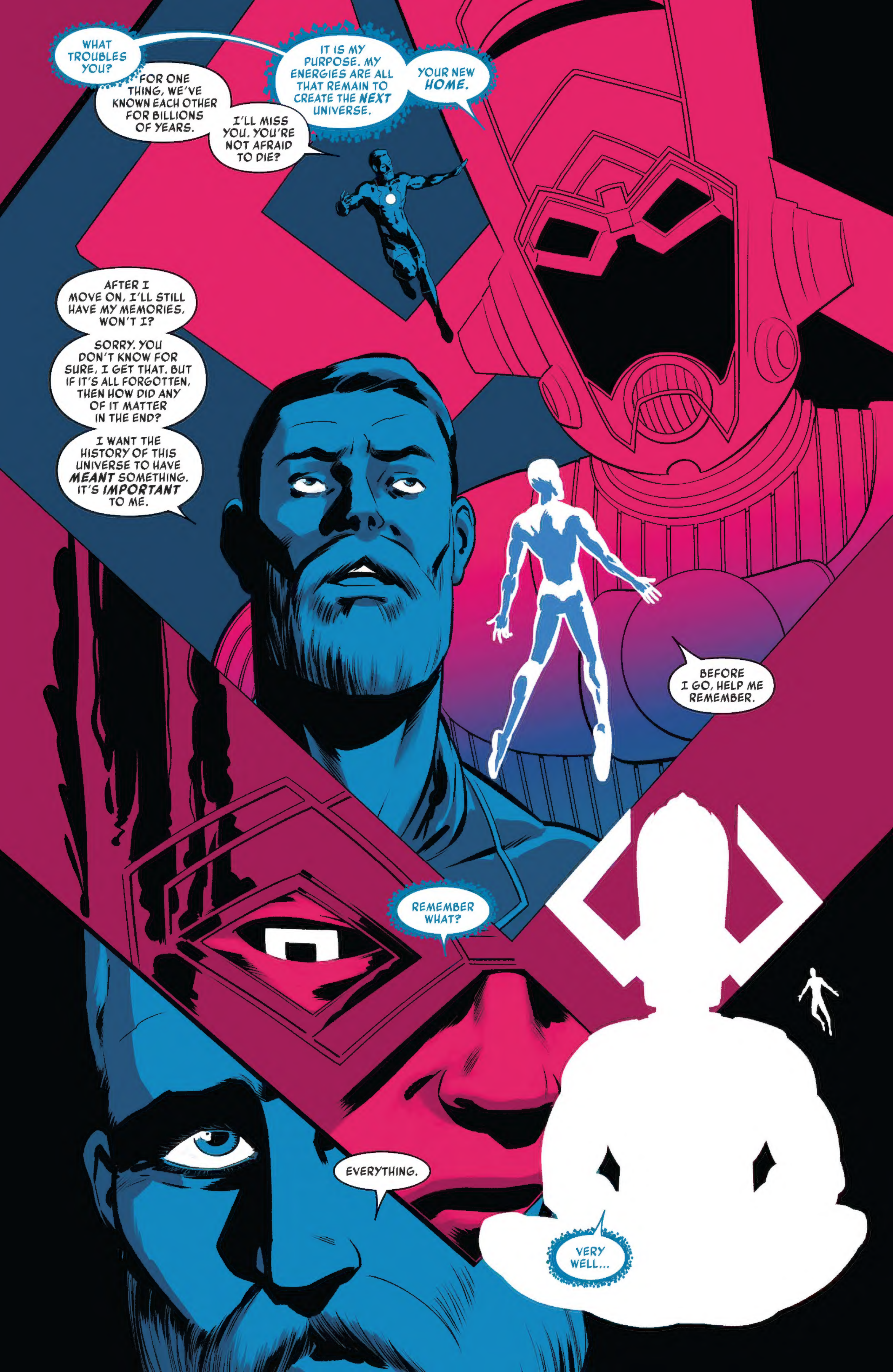
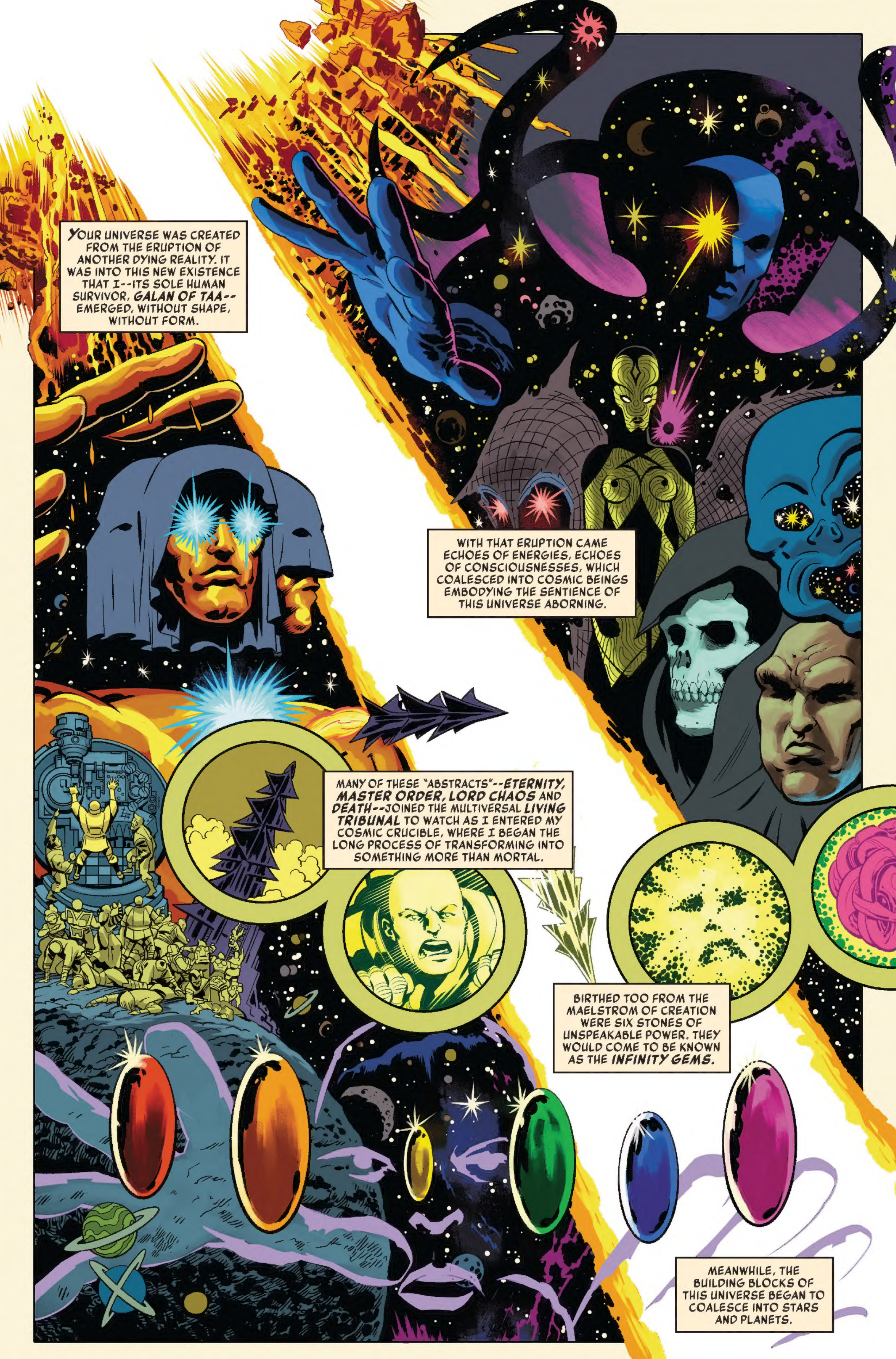
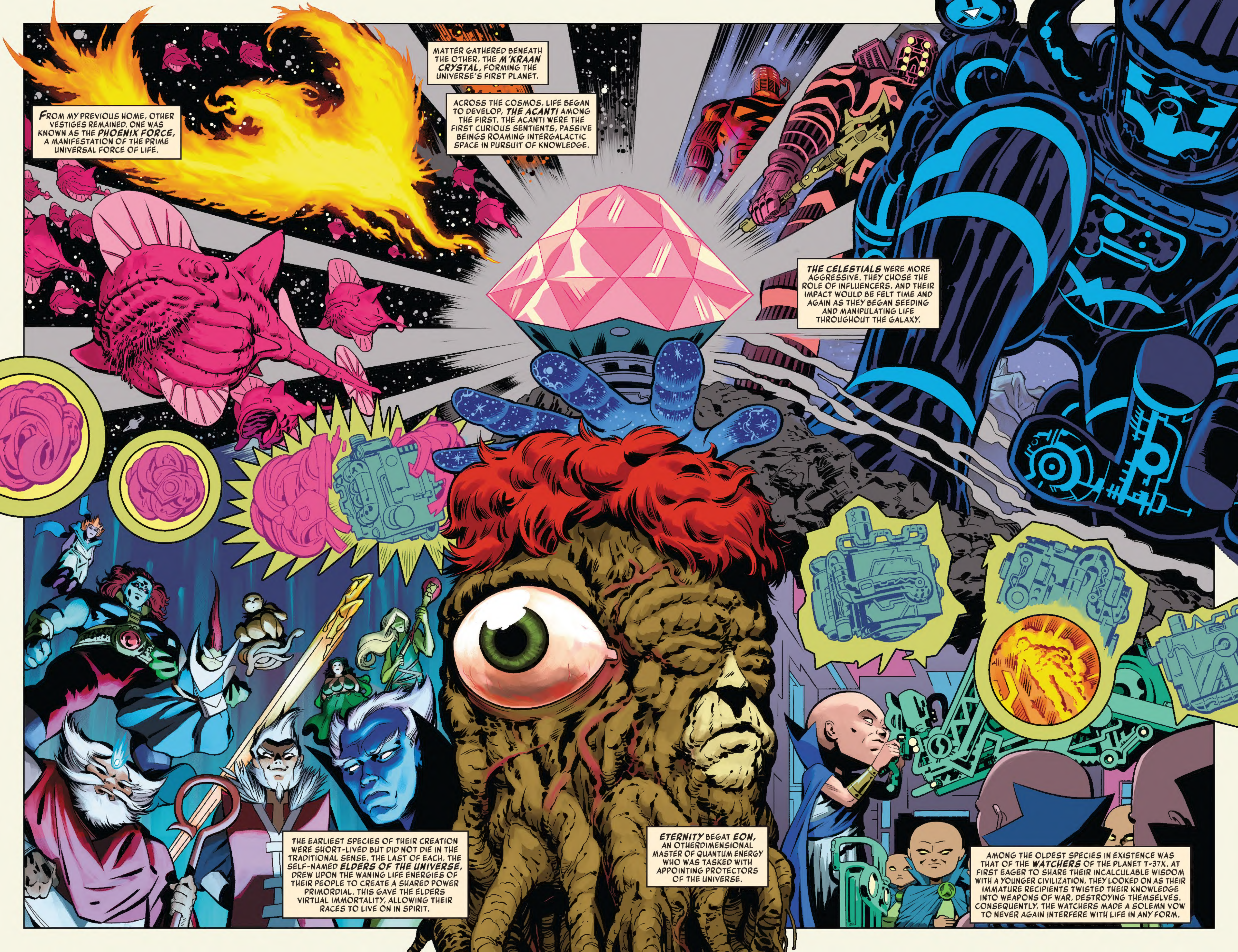
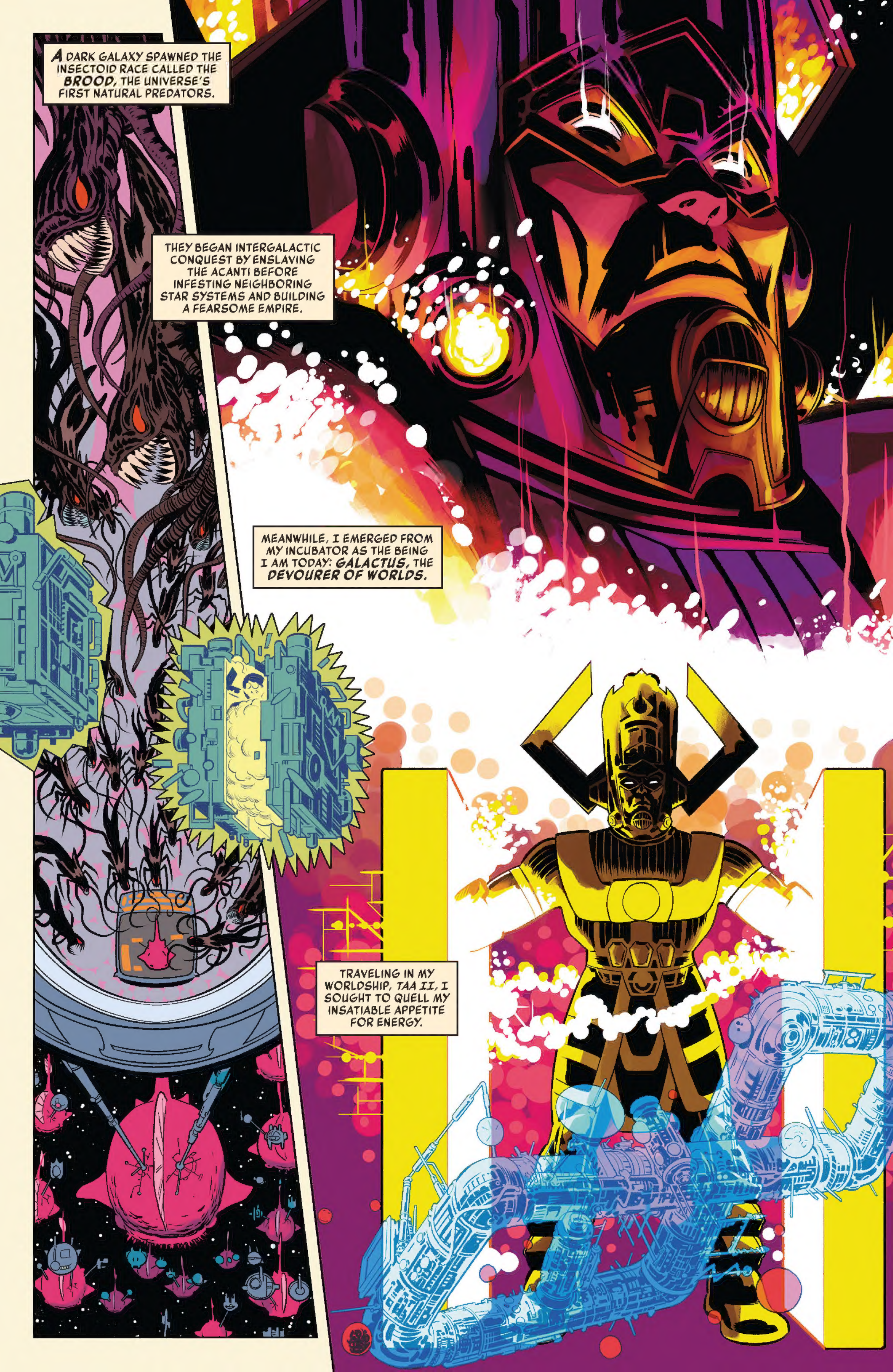
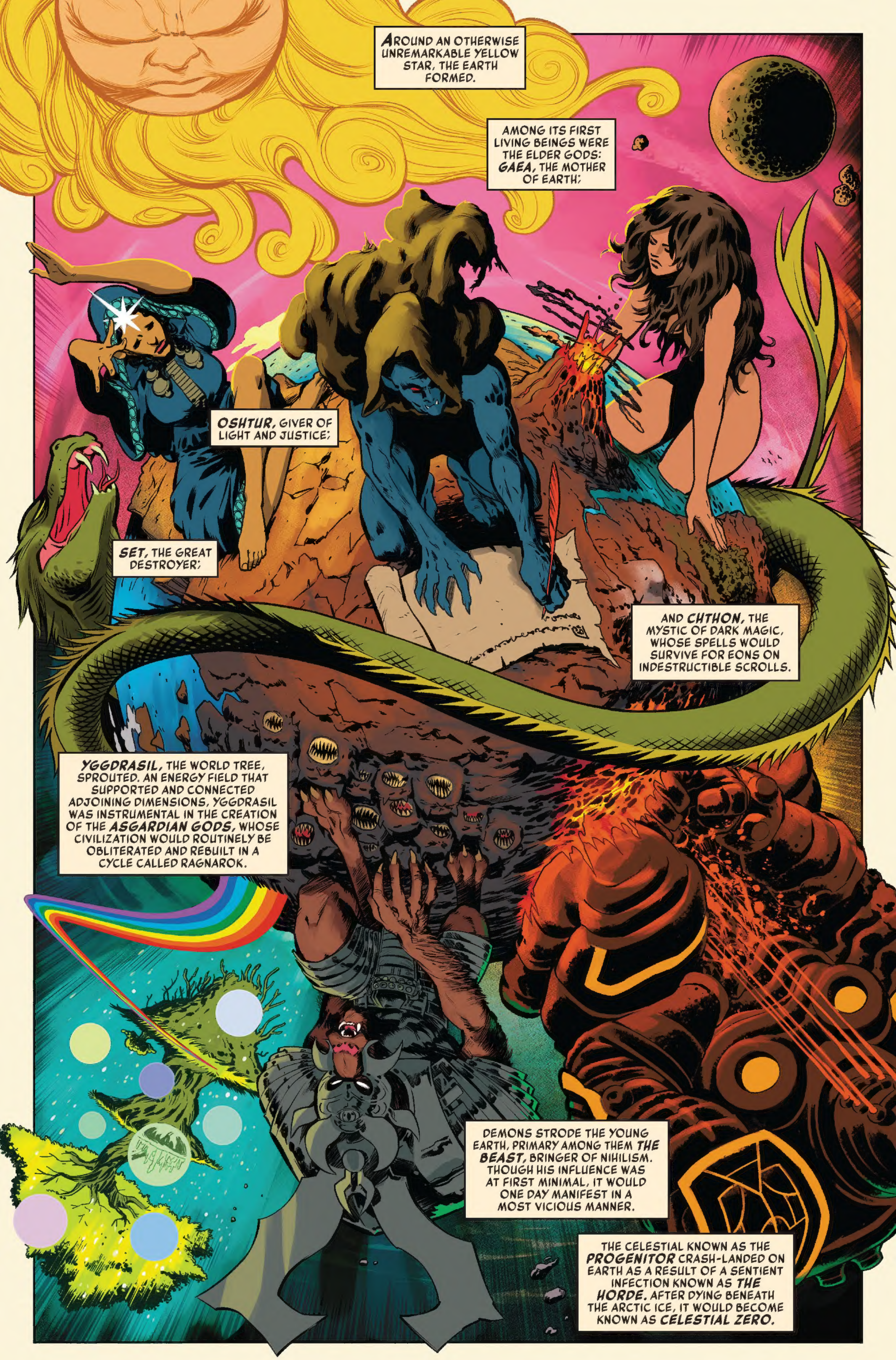

ARE YOU READY?
YES.
NO.
FRANKLIN RICHARDS.
GALACTUS.
THE END OF TIME.
FINAL ENTROPY ISN'T YET COMPLETE. I CAN SENSE A FEW LAST LIVING PARTICLES HERE AND THERE.
THERE ARE TWO LEFT IN THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY, EACH TERRIFIED OF LEAVING THE OTHER ALONE.
WE HAVE A LITTLE TIME BEFORE THE UNIVERSE DIES.

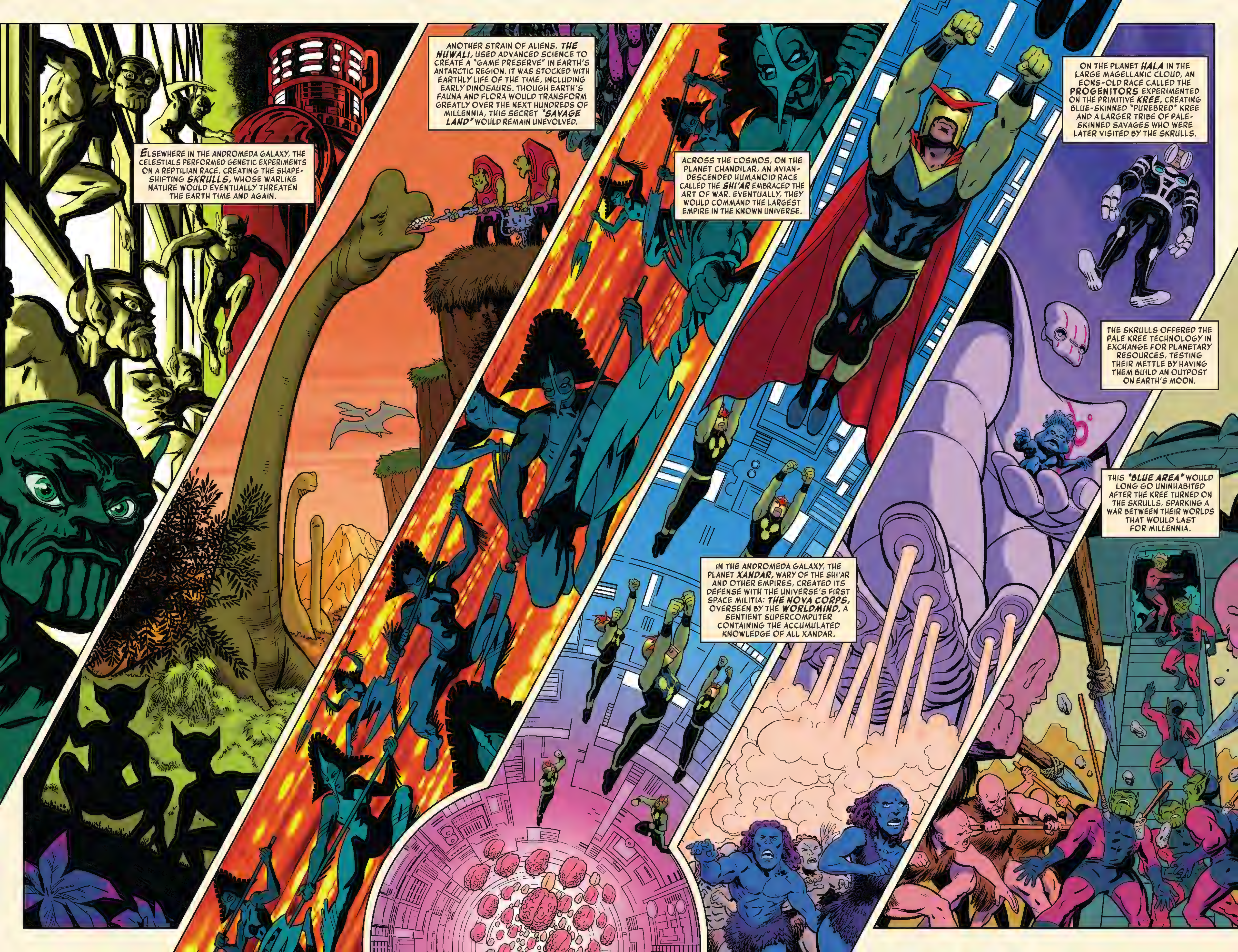

WHAT TROUBLES YOU?
FOR ONE THING, WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR BILLIONS OF YEARS.
I'LL MISS YOU. YOU'RE NOT AFRAID TO DIE?
IT IS MY PURPOSE. MY ENERGIES ARE ALL THAT REMAIN TO CREATE THE *NEXT* UNIVERSE.
YOUR NEW *HOME.*
AFTER I MOVE ON, I'LL STILL HAVE MY MEMORIES, WON'T I?
SORRY. YOU DON'T KNOW FOR SURE, I GET THAT. BUT IF IT'S ALL FORGOTTEN, THEN HOW DID ANY OF IT MATTER IN THE END?
I WANT THE HISTORY OF THIS UNIVERSE TO HAVE *MEANT* SOMETHING. IT'S *IMPORTANT* TO ME.
BEFORE I GO, HELP ME REMEMBER.
REMEMBER WHAT?
EVERYTHING.
VERY WELL...


YOUR UNIVERSE WAS CREATED FROM THE ERUPTION OF ANOTHER DYING REALITY. IT WAS INTO THIS NEW EXISTENCE THAT I--ITS SOLE HUMAN SURVIVOR, **GALAN OF TAA**--EMERGED, WITHOUT SHAPE, WITHOUT FORM.
WITH THAT ERUPTION CAME ECHOES OF ENERGIES, ECHOES OF CONSCIOUSNESSES, WHICH COALESCED INTO COSMIC BEINGS EMBODYING THE SENTIENCE OF THIS UNIVERSE ABORNING.
MANY OF THESE "ABSTRACTS"--***ETERNITY, MASTER ORDER, LORD CHAOS*** AND ***DEATH***--JOINED THE MULTIVERSAL ***LIVING TRIBUNAL*** TO WATCH AS I ENTERED MY COSMIC CRUCIBLE, WHERE I BEGAN THE LONG PROCESS OF TRANSFORMING INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN MORTAL.
BIRTHED TOO FROM THE MAELSTROM OF CREATION WERE SIX STONES OF UNSPEAKABLE POWER. THEY WOULD COME TO BE KNOWN AS THE ***INFINITY GEMS.***
MEANWHILE, THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THIS UNIVERSE BEGAN TO COALESCE INTO STARS AND PLANETS.


FROM MY PREVIOUS HOME, OTHER VESTIGES REMAINED. ONE WAS KNOWN AS THE **PHOENIX FORCE,** A MANIFESTATION OF THE PRIME UNIVERSAL FORCE OF LIFE.
MATTER GATHERED BENEATH THE OTHER, THE **M'KRAAN CRYSTAL,** FORMING THE UNIVERSE'S FIRST PLANET.
ACROSS THE COSMOS, LIFE BEGAN TO DEVELOP, **THE ACANTI** AMONG THE FIRST. THE ACANTI WERE THE FIRST CURIOUS SENTIENTS, PASSIVE BEINGS ROAMING INTERGALACTIC SPACE IN PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE.
THE CELESTIALS WERE MORE AGGRESSIVE. THEY CHOSE THE ROLE OF INFLUENCERS, AND THEIR IMPACT WOULD BE FELT TIME AND AGAIN AS THEY BEGAN SEEDING AND MANIPULATING LIFE THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY.
THE EARLIEST SPECIES OF THEIR CREATION WERE SHORT-LIVED BUT DID NOT DIE IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE. THE LAST OF EACH, THE SELF-NAMED **ELDERS OF THE UNIVERSE,** DREW UPON THE WANING LIFE ENERGIES OF THEIR PEOPLE TO CREATE A SHARED POWER PRIMORDIAL. THIS GAVE THE ELDERS VIRTUAL IMMORTALITY, ALLOWING THEIR RACES TO LIVE ON IN SPIRIT.
ETERNITY BEGAT **EON,** AN OTHERDIMENSIONAL MASTER OF QUANTUM ENERGY WHO WAS TASKED WITH APPOINTING PROTECTORS OF THE UNIVERSE.
AMONG THE OLDEST SPECIES IN EXISTENCE WAS THAT OF THE **WATCHERS** OF THE PLANET T-37X. AT FIRST EAGER TO SHARE THEIR INCALCULABLE WISDOM WITH A YOUNGER CIVILIZATION, THEY LOOKED ON AS THEIR IMMATURE RECIPIENTS TWISTED THEIR KNOWLEDGE INTO WEAPONS OF WAR, DESTROYING THEMSELVES. CONSEQUENTLY, THE WATCHERS MADE A SOLEMN VOW TO NEVER AGAIN INTERFERE WITH LIFE IN ANY FORM.


A DARK GALAXY SPAWNED THE INSECTOID RACE CALLED THE BROOD, THE UNIVERSE'S FIRST NATURAL PREDATORS.
THEY BEGAN INTERGALACTIC CONQUEST BY ENSLAVING THE ACANTI BEFORE INFESTING NEIGHBORING STAR SYSTEMS AND BUILDING A FEARSOME EMPIRE.
MEANWHILE, I EMERGED FROM MY INCUBATOR AS THE BEING I AM TODAY: GALACTUS, THE DEVOURER OF WORLDS.
TRAVELING IN MY WORLDSHIP, TAA II, I SOUGHT TO QUELL MY INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR ENERGY.


AROUND AN OTHERWISE UNREMARKABLE YELLOW STAR, THE EARTH FORMED.
AMONG ITS FIRST LIVING BEINGS WERE THE ELDER GODS: **GAEA**, THE MOTHER OF EARTH;
OSHTUR, GIVER OF LIGHT AND JUSTICE;
SET, THE GREAT DESTROYER;
AND **CHTHON,** THE MYSTIC OF DARK MAGIC, WHOSE SPELLS WOULD SURVIVE FOR EONS ON INDESTRUCTIBLE SCROLLS.
YGGDRASIL, THE WORLD TREE, SPROUTED. AN ENERGY FIELD THAT SUPPORTED AND CONNECTED ADJOINING DIMENSIONS, YGGDRASIL WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE CREATION OF THE **ASGARDIAN GODS,** WHOSE CIVILIZATION WOULD ROUTINELY BE OBLITERATED AND REBUILT IN A CYCLE CALLED RAGNAROK.
DEMONS STRODE THE YOUNG EARTH, PRIMARY AMONG THEM **THE BEAST,** BRINGER OF NIHILISM. THOUGH HIS INFLUENCE WAS AT FIRST MINIMAL, IT WOULD ONE DAY MANIFEST IN A MOST VICIOUS MANNER.
THE CELESTIAL KNOWN AS THE **PROGENITOR** CRASH-LANDED ON EARTH AS A RESULT OF A SENTIENT INFECTION KNOWN AS **THE HORDE.** AFTER DYING BENEATH THE ARCTIC ICE, IT WOULD BECOME KNOWN AS **CELESTIAL ZERO.**



Elsewhere in the Andromeda galaxy, the Celestials performed genetic experiments on a reptilian race, creating the shape-shifting **Skrulls,** whose warlike nature would eventually threaten the Earth time and again.

Another strain of aliens, ***the Nuwali,*** used advanced science to create a "game preserve" in Earth's Antarctic region. It was stocked with earthly life of the time, including early dinosaurs. Though Earth's fauna and flora would transform greatly over the next hundreds of millennia, this secret ***"Savage Land"*** would remain unevolved.

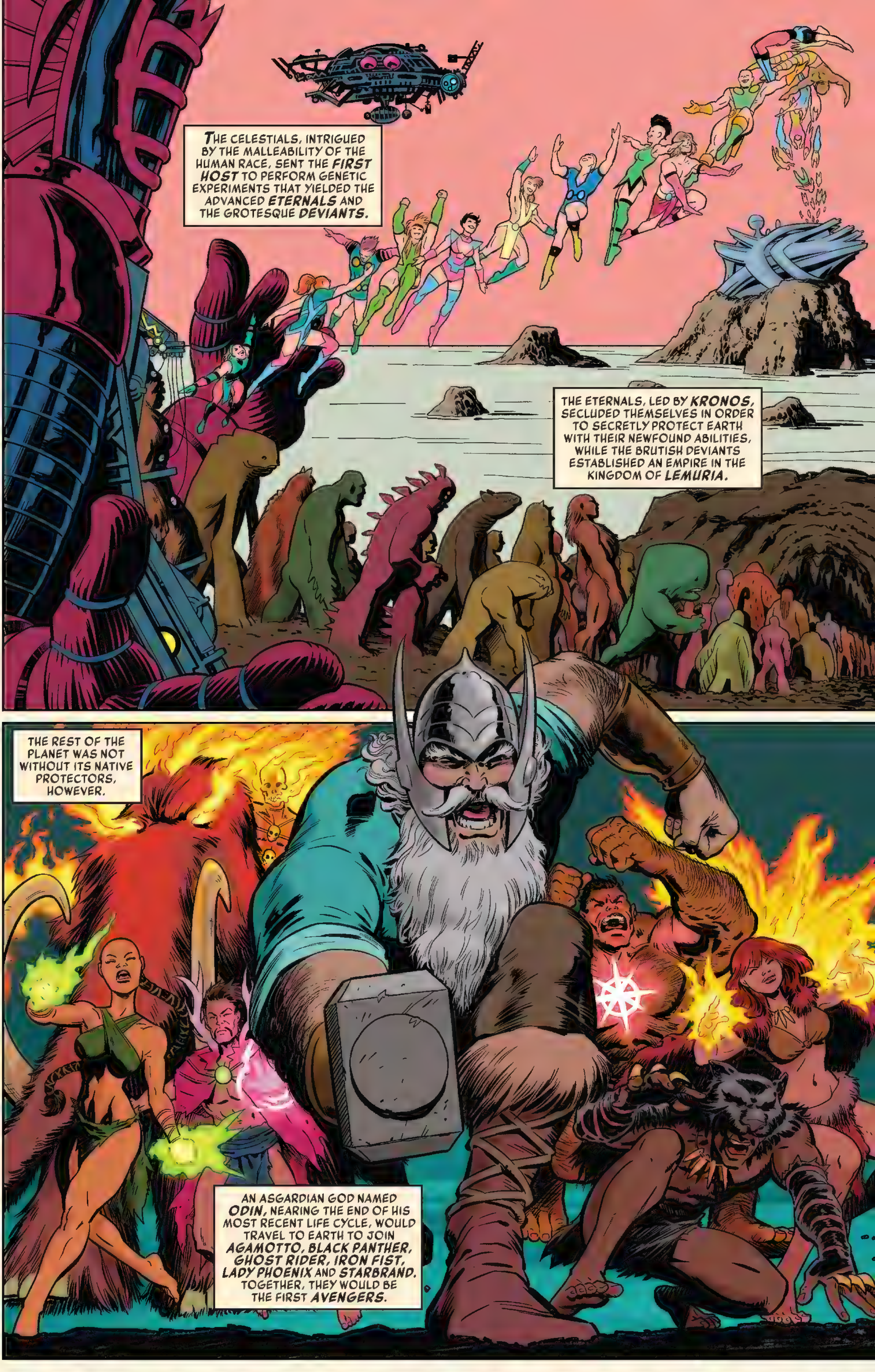
Across the cosmos, on the planet Chandilar, an avian-descended humanoid race called the ***Shi'ar*** embraced the art of war. Eventually, they would command the largest empire in the known universe.

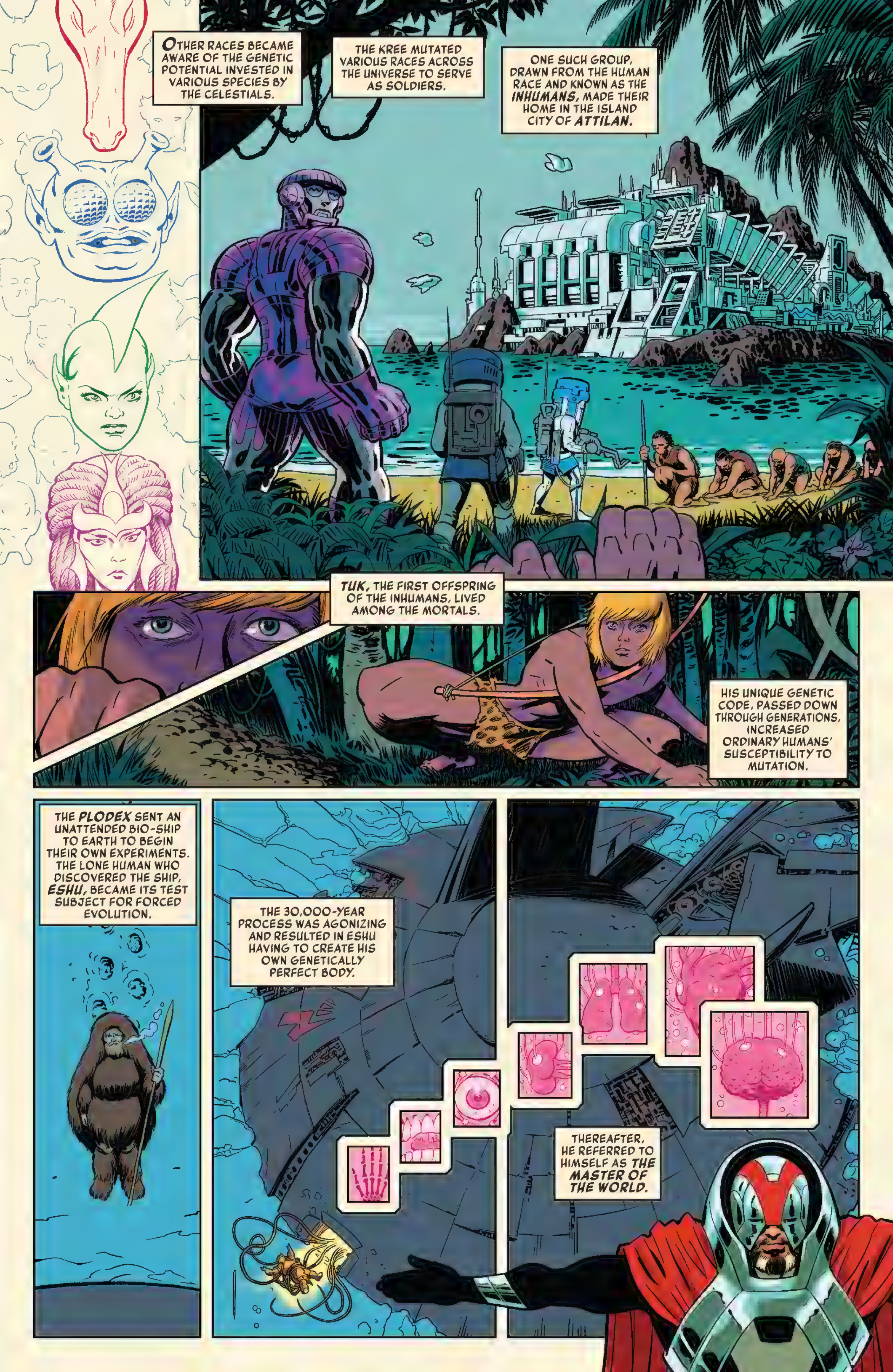
In the Andromeda galaxy, the planet ***Xandar,*** wary of the Shi'ar and other empires, created its defense with the universe's first space militia: ***The Nova Corps,*** overseen by the ***Worldmind,*** a sentient supercomputer containing the accumulated knowledge of all Xandar.

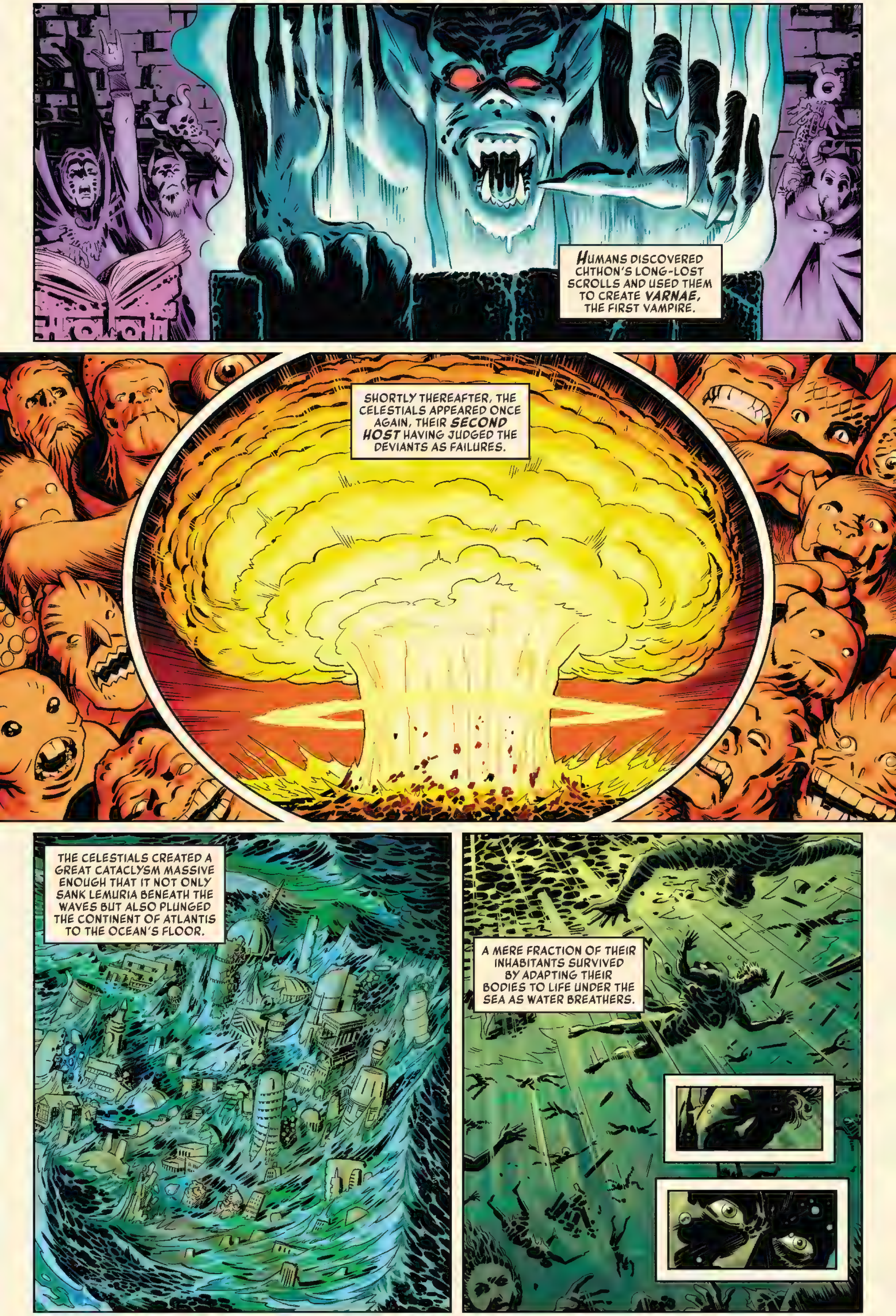
On the planet ***Hala*** in the Large Magellanic Cloud, an eons-old race called the **Progenitors** experimented on the primitive ***Kree,*** creating blue-skinned "purebred" Kree and a larger tribe of pale-skinned savages who were later visited by the Skrulls.

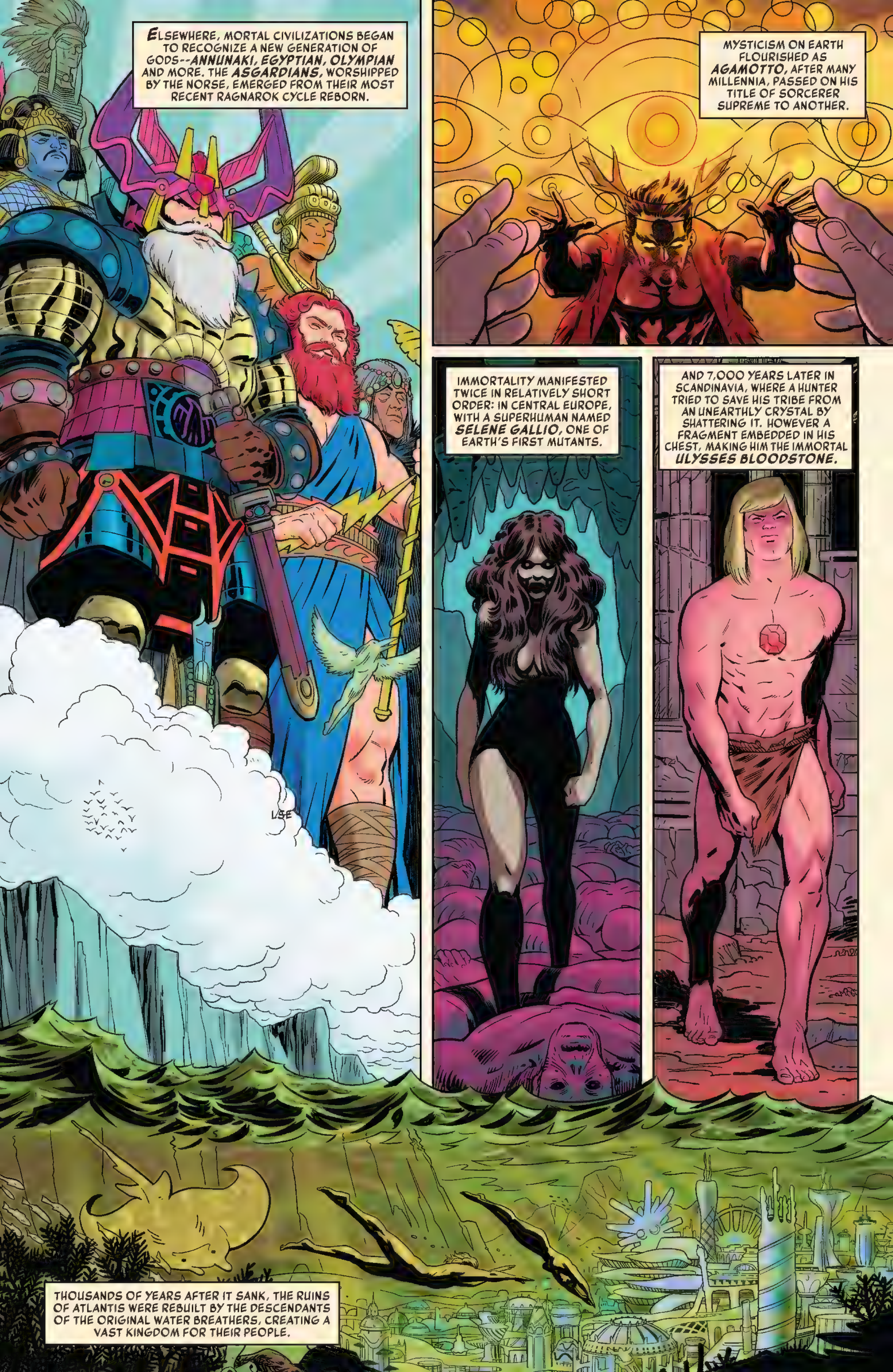
The Skrulls offered the pale Kree technology in exchange for planetary resources, testing their mettle by having them build an outpost on Earth's moon.

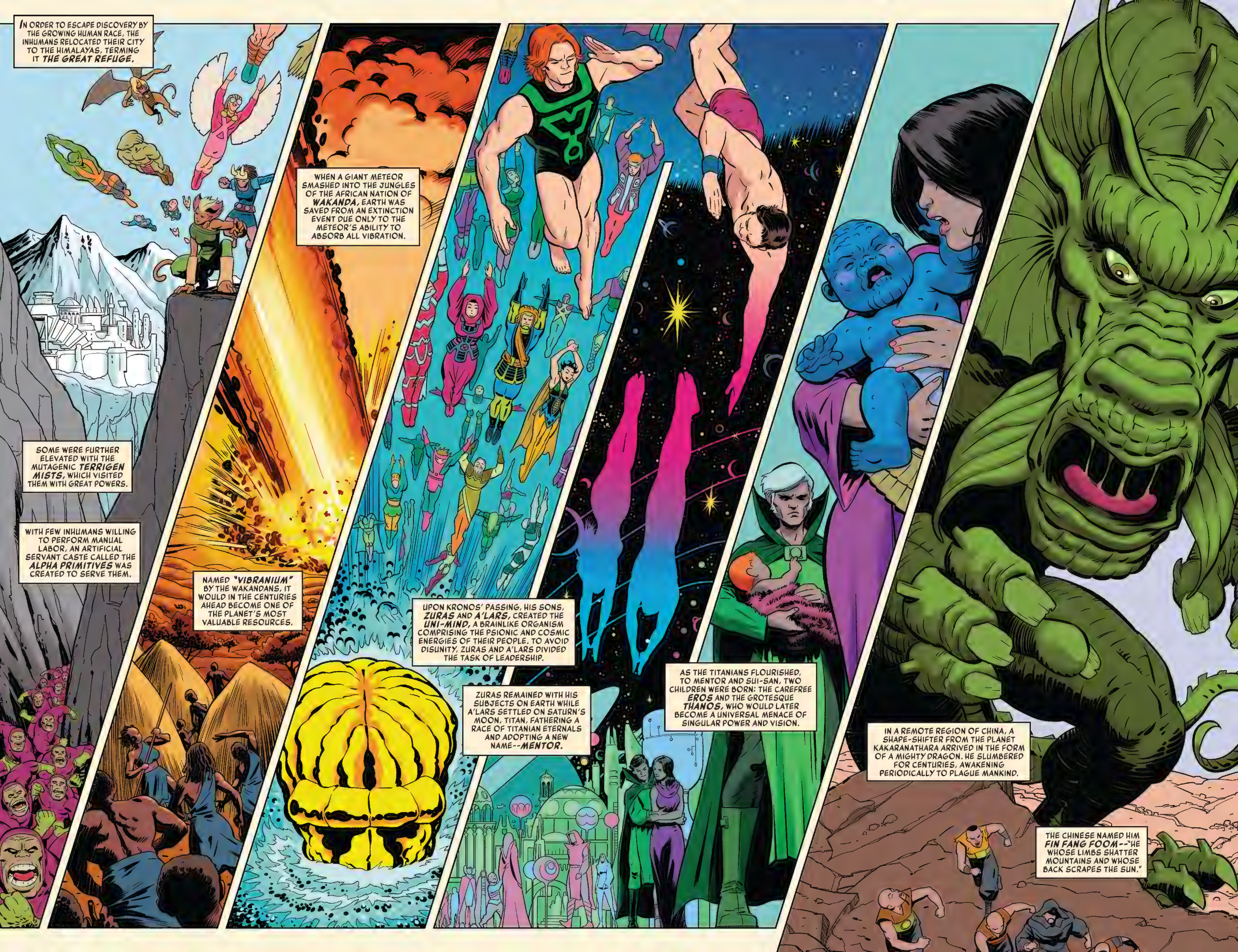
This ***"Blue Area"*** would long go uninhabited after the Kree turned on the Skrulls, sparking a war between their worlds that would last for millennia.

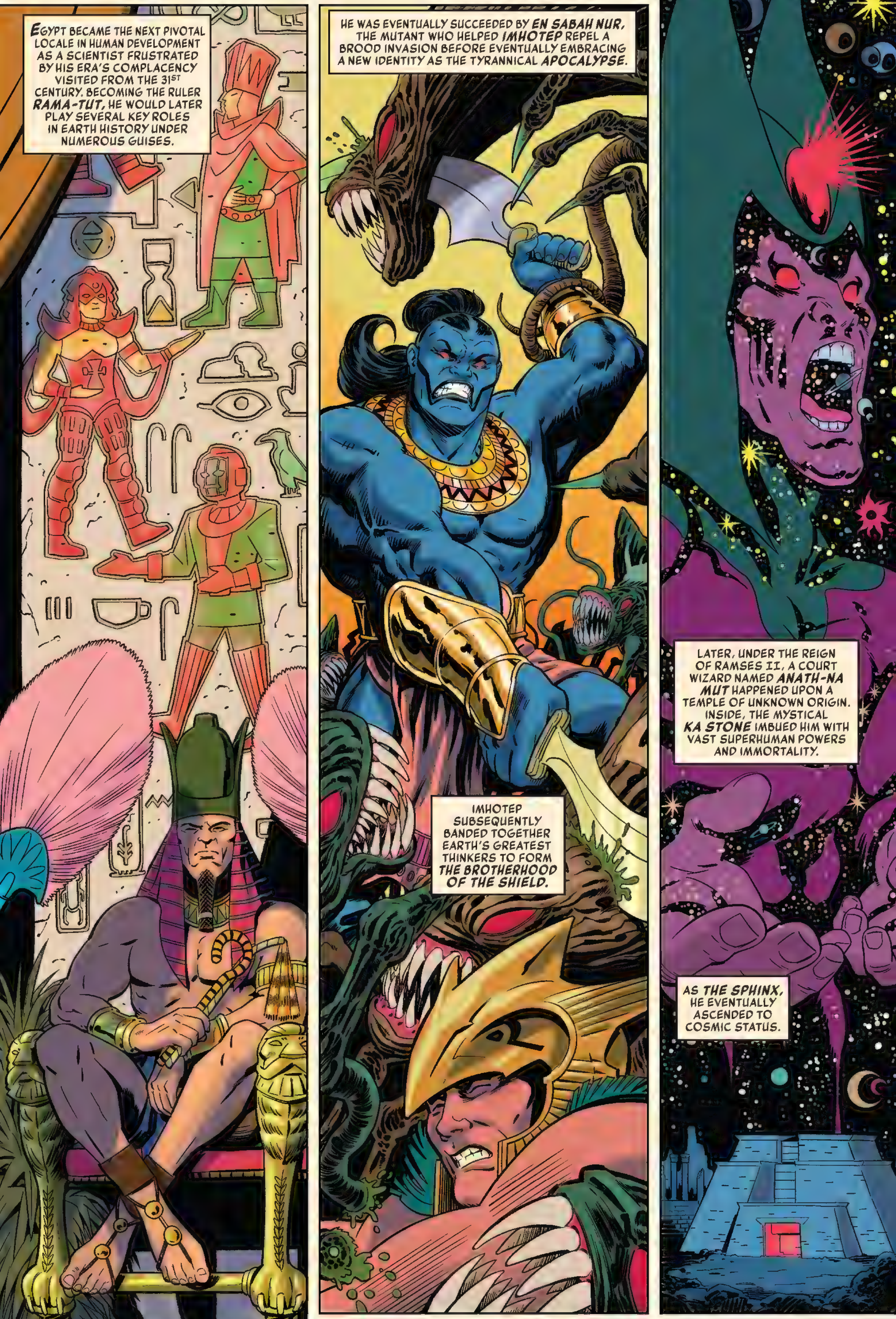

THE CELESTIALS, INTRIGUED BY THE MALLEABILITY OF THE HUMAN RACE, SENT THE FIRST HOST TO PERFORM GENETIC EXPERIMENTS THAT YIELDED THE ADVANCED ETERNALS AND THE GROTESQUE DEVIANTS.
THE ETERNALS, LED BY KRONOS, SECLUDED THEMSELVES IN ORDER TO SECRETLY PROTECT EARTH WITH THEIR NEWFOUND ABILITIES, WHILE THE BRUTISH DEVIANTS ESTABLISHED AN EMPIRE IN THE KINGDOM OF LEMURIA.
THE REST OF THE PLANET WAS NOT WITHOUT ITS NATIVE PROTECTORS, HOWEVER.
AN ASGARDIAN GOD NAMED ODIN, NEARING THE END OF HIS MOST RECENT LIFE CYCLE, WOULD TRAVEL TO EARTH TO JOIN AGAMOTTO, BLACK PANTHER, GHOST RIDER, IRON FIST, LADY PHOENIX AND STARBRAND. TOGETHER, THEY WOULD BE THE FIRST AVENGERS.

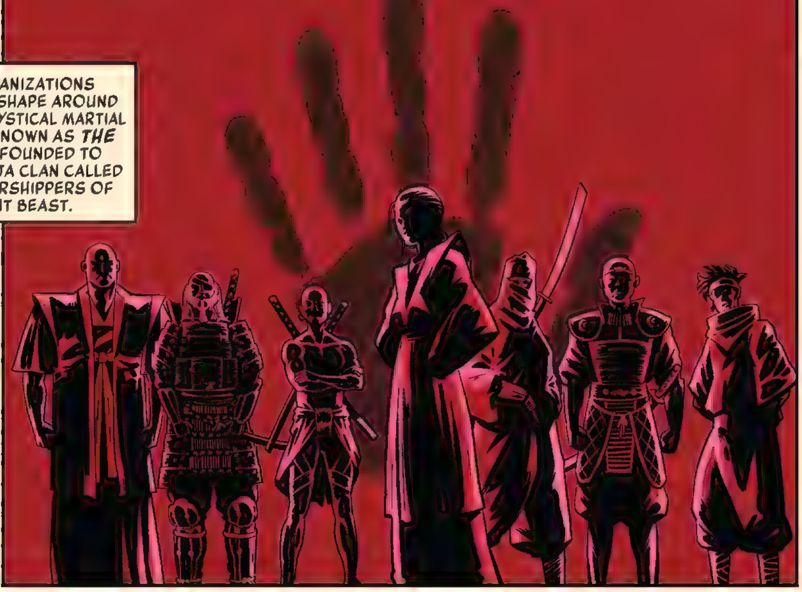

OTHER RACES BECAME AWARE OF THE GENETIC POTENTIAL INVESTED IN VARIOUS SPECIES BY THE CELESTIALS.
THE KREE MUTATED VARIOUS RACES ACROSS THE UNIVERSE TO SERVE AS SOLDIERS.
ONE SUCH GROUP, DRAWN FROM THE HUMAN RACE AND KNOWN AS THE ***INHUMANS,*** MADE THEIR HOME IN THE ISLAND CITY OF ***ATTILAN.***
TUK, THE FIRST OFFSPRING OF THE INHUMANS, LIVED AMONG THE MORTALS.
HIS UNIQUE GENETIC CODE, PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS, INCREASED ORDINARY HUMANS' SUSCEPTIBILITY TO MUTATION.
THE ***PLODEX*** SENT AN UNATTENDED BIO-SHIP TO EARTH TO BEGIN THEIR OWN EXPERIMENTS. THE LONE HUMAN WHO DISCOVERED THE SHIP, ***ESHU,*** BECAME ITS TEST SUBJECT FOR FORCED EVOLUTION.
THE 30,000-YEAR PROCESS WAS AGONIZING AND RESULTED IN ESHU HAVING TO CREATE HIS OWN GENETICALLY PERFECT BODY.
THEREAFTER, HE REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS ***THE MASTER OF THE WORLD.***


HUMANS DISCOVERED CHTHON'S LONG-LOST SCROLLS AND USED THEM TO CREATE **VARNAE,** THE FIRST VAMPIRE.
SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE CELESTIALS APPEARED ONCE AGAIN, THEIR **SECOND HOST** HAVING JUDGED THE DEVIANTS AS FAILURES.
THE CELESTIALS CREATED A GREAT CATACLYSM MASSIVE ENOUGH THAT IT NOT ONLY SANK LEMURIA BENEATH THE WAVES BUT ALSO PLUNGED THE CONTINENT OF ATLANTIS TO THE OCEAN'S FLOOR.
A MERE FRACTION OF THEIR INHABITANTS SURVIVED BY ADAPTING THEIR BODIES TO LIFE UNDER THE SEA AS WATER BREATHERS.

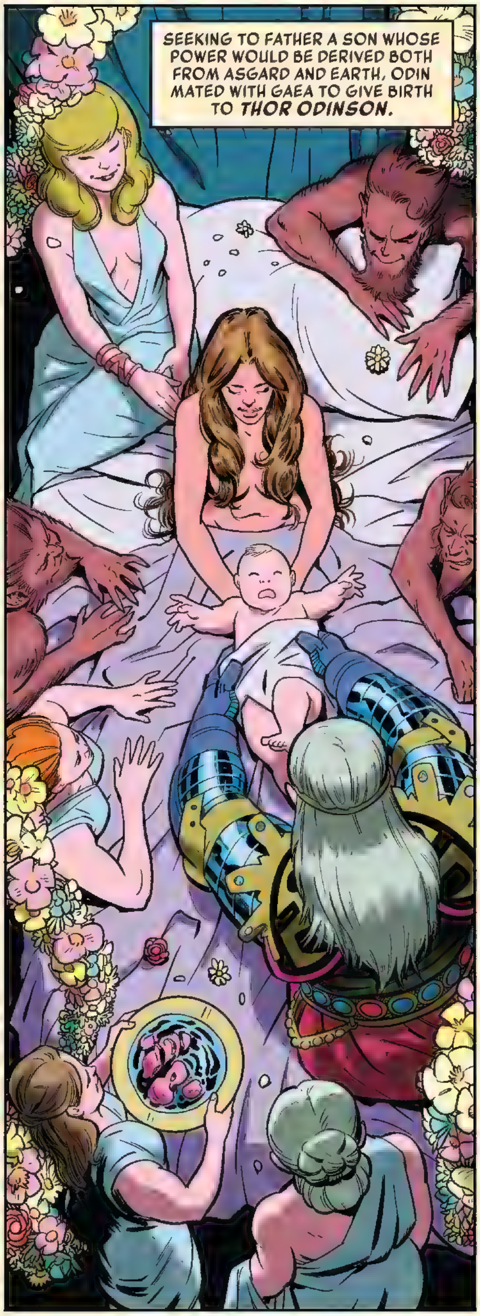

ELSEWHERE, MORTAL CIVILIZATIONS BEGAN TO RECOGNIZE A NEW GENERATION OF GODS--ANNUNAKI, EGYPTIAN, OLYMPIAN AND MORE. THE ASGARDIANS, WORSHIPPED BY THE NORSE, EMERGED FROM THEIR MOST RECENT RAGNAROK CYCLE REBORN.
MYSTICISM ON EARTH FLOURISHED AS AGAMOTTO, AFTER MANY MILLENNIA, PASSED ON HIS TITLE OF SORCERER SUPREME TO ANOTHER.
IMMORTALITY MANIFESTED TWICE IN RELATIVELY SHORT ORDER: IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WITH A SUPERHUMAN NAMED SELENE GALLIO, ONE OF EARTH'S FIRST MUTANTS.
AND 7,000 YEARS LATER IN SCANDINAVIA, WHERE A HUNTER TRIED TO SAVE HIS TRIBE FROM AN UNEARTHLY CRYSTAL BY SHATTERING IT. HOWEVER A FRAGMENT EMBEDDED IN HIS CHEST, MAKING HIM THE IMMORTAL ULYSSES BLOODSTONE.
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AFTER IT SANK, THE RUINS OF ATLANTIS WERE REBUILT BY THE DESCENDANTS OF THE ORIGINAL WATER BREATHERS, CREATING A VAST KINGDOM FOR THEIR PEOPLE.


IN ORDER TO ESCAPE DISCOVERY BY THE GROWING HUMAN RACE, THE INHUMANS RELOCATED THEIR CITY TO THE HIMALAYAS, TERMING IT ***THE GREAT REFUGE.***
SOME WERE FURTHER ELEVATED WITH THE MUTAGENIC ***TERRIGEN MISTS,*** WHICH VISITED THEM WITH GREAT POWERS.
WITH FEW INHUMANS WILLING TO PERFORM MANUAL LABOR, AN ARTIFICIAL SERVANT CASTE CALLED THE ***ALPHA PRIMITIVES*** WAS CREATED TO SERVE THEM.
WHEN A GIANT METEOR SMASHED INTO THE JUNGLES OF THE AFRICAN NATION OF ***WAKANDA,*** EARTH WAS SAVED FROM AN EXTINCTION EVENT DUE ONLY TO THE METEOR'S ABILITY TO ABSORB ALL VIBRATION.
NAMED ***"VIBRANIUM"*** BY THE WAKANDANS, IT WOULD IN THE CENTURIES AHEAD BECOME ONE OF THE PLANET'S MOST VALUABLE RESOURCES.
UPON KRONOS' PASSING, HIS SONS, ***ZURAS*** AND ***A'LARS,*** CREATED THE ***UNI-MIND,*** A BRAINLIKE ORGANISM COMPRISING THE PSIONIC AND COSMIC ENERGIES OF THEIR PEOPLE. TO AVOID DISUNITY, ZURAS AND A'LARS DIVIDED THE TASK OF LEADERSHIP.
ZURAS REMAINED WITH HIS SUBJECTS ON EARTH WHILE A'LARS SETTLED ON SATURN'S MOON, TITAN, FATHERING A RACE OF TITANIAN ETERNALS AND ADOPTING A NEW NAME--***MENTOR.***
AS THE TITANIANS FLOURISHED, TO MENTOR AND SUI-SAN, TWO CHILDREN WERE BORN: THE CAREFREE ***EROS*** AND THE GROTESQUE ***THANOS,*** WHO WOULD LATER BECOME A UNIVERSAL MENACE OF SINGULAR POWER AND VISION.
IN A REMOTE REGION OF CHINA, A SHAPE-SHIFTER FROM THE PLANET KAKARANATHARA ARRIVED IN THE FORM OF A MIGHTY DRAGON. HE SLUMBERED FOR CENTURIES, AWAKENING PERIODICALLY TO PLAGUE MANKIND.
THE CHINESE NAMED HIM ***FIN FANG FOOM***--"HE WHOSE LIMBS SHATTER MOUNTAINS AND WHOSE BACK SCRAPES THE SUN."

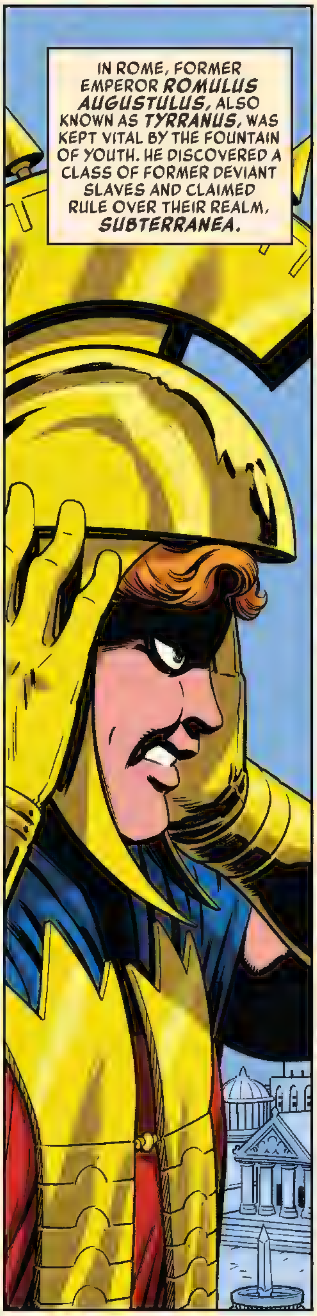

EGYPT BECAME THE NEXT PIVOTAL LOCALE IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AS A SCIENTIST FRUSTRATED BY HIS ERA'S COMPLACENCY VISITED FROM THE 31ST CENTURY. BECOMING THE RULER **RAMA-TUT,** HE WOULD LATER PLAY SEVERAL KEY ROLES IN EARTH HISTORY UNDER NUMEROUS GUISES.
HE WAS EVENTUALLY SUCCEEDED BY **EN SABAH NUR,** THE MUTANT WHO HELPED **IMHOTEP** REPEL A BROOD INVASION BEFORE EVENTUALLY EMBRACING A NEW IDENTITY AS THE TYRANNICAL **APOCALYPSE.**
IMHOTEP SUBSEQUENTLY BANDED TOGETHER EARTH'S GREATEST THINKERS TO FORM **THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE SHIELD.**
LATER, UNDER THE REIGN OF RAMSES II, A COURT WIZARD NAMED **ANATH-NA MUT** HAPPENED UPON A TEMPLE OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN. INSIDE, THE MYSTICAL **KA STONE** IMBUED HIM WITH VAST SUPERHUMAN POWERS AND IMMORTALITY.
AS **THE SPHINX,** HE EVENTUALLY ASCENDED TO COSMIC STATUS.



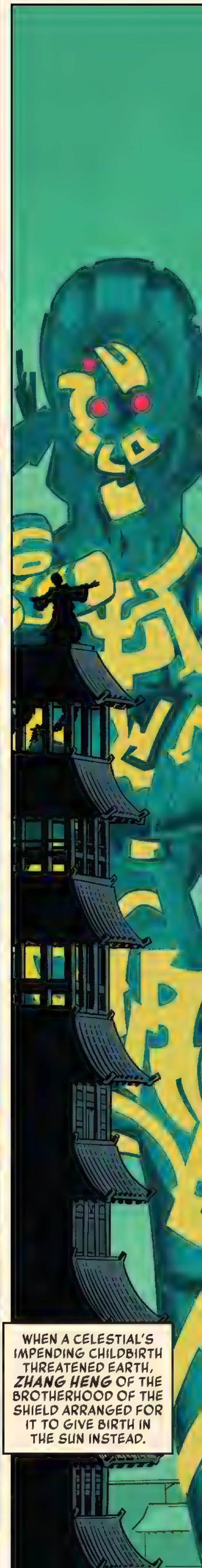
SECRET ORGANIZATIONS BEGAN TO TAKE SHAPE AROUND THE WORLD. THE MYSTICAL MARTIAL ARTS ENCLAVE KNOWN AS ***THE CHASTE*** WAS FOUNDED TO COMBAT THE NINJA CLAN CALLED ***THE HAND,*** WORSHIPPERS OF THE ANCIENT BEAST.



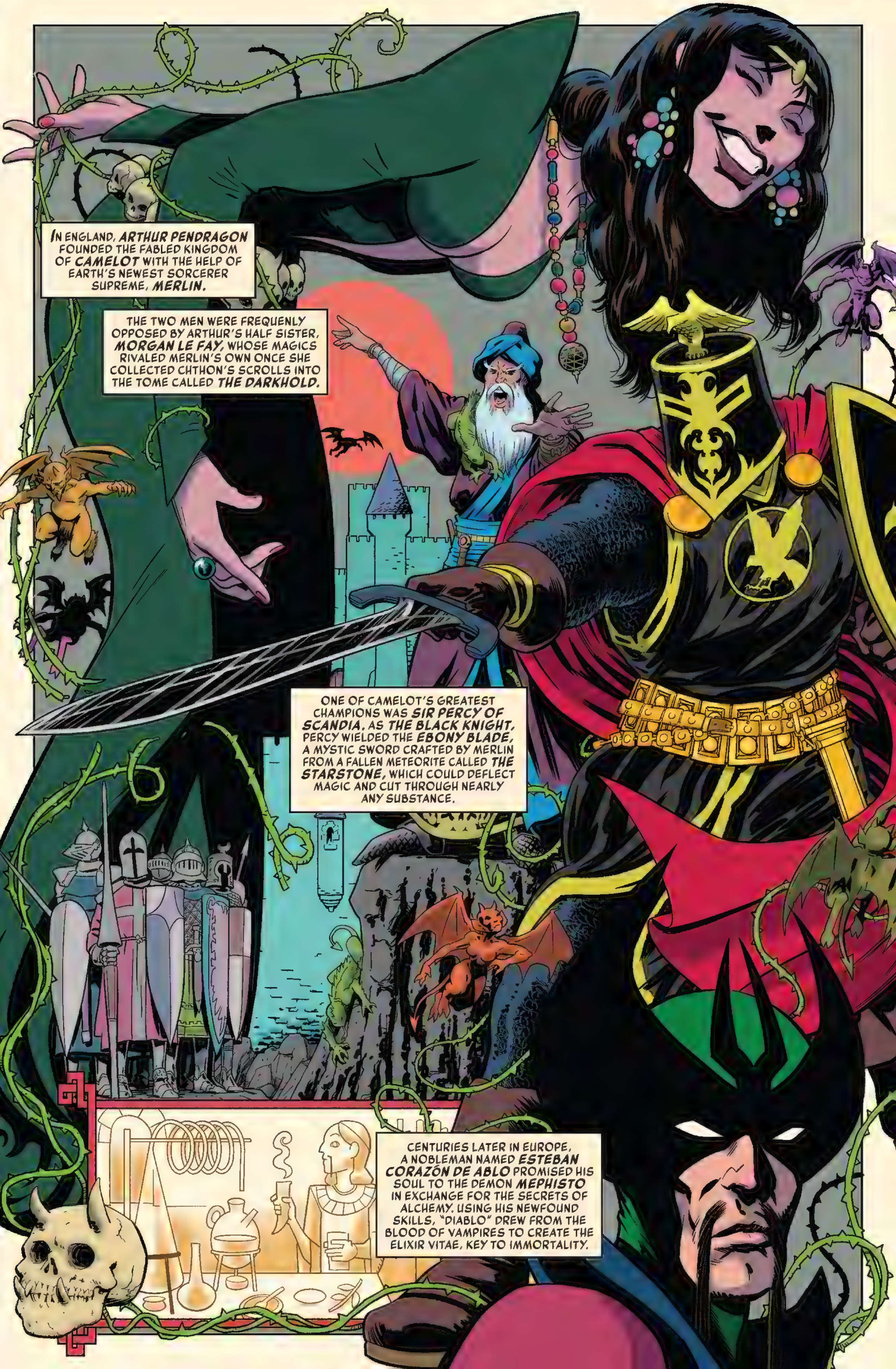
SEEKING TO FATHER A SON WHOSE POWER WOULD BE DERIVED BOTH FROM ASGARD AND EARTH, ODIN MATED WITH GAEA TO GIVE BIRTH TO ***THOR ODINSON.***

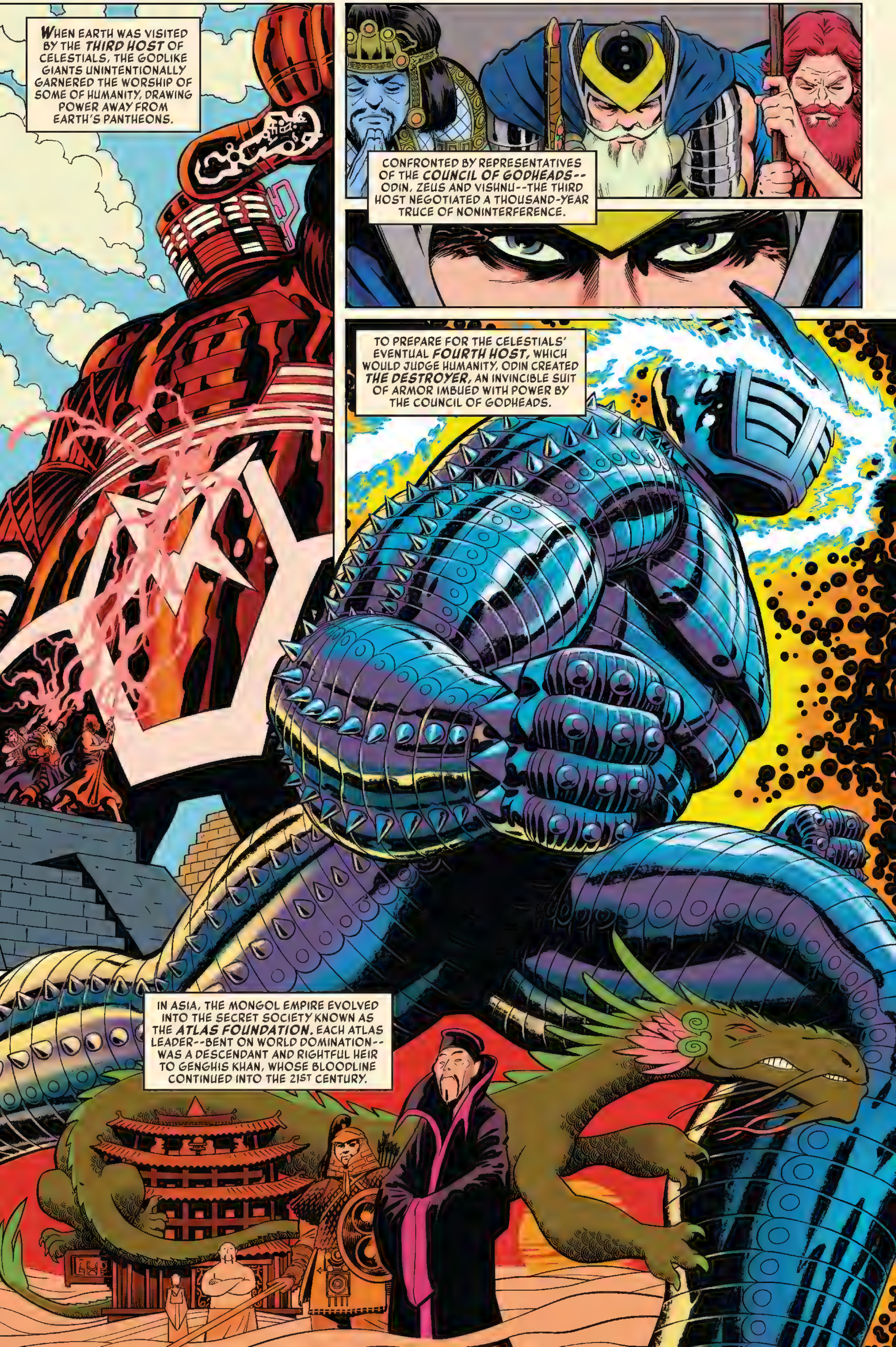


IN ROME, FORMER EMPEROR ***ROMULUS AUGUSTULUS,*** ALSO KNOWN AS ***TYRRANUS,*** WAS KEPT VITAL BY THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH. HE DISCOVERED A CLASS OF FORMER DEVIANT SLAVES AND CLAIMED RULE OVER THEIR REALM, ***SUBTERRANEA.***



WHEN A CELESTIAL'S IMPENDING CHILDBIRTH THREATENED EARTH, ***ZHANG HENG*** OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE SHIELD ARRANGED FOR IT TO GIVE BIRTH IN THE SUN INSTEAD.


IN ENGLAND, ARTHUR PENDRAGON FOUNDED THE FABLED KINGDOM OF CAMELOT WITH THE HELP OF EARTH'S NEWEST SORCERER SUPREME, MERLIN.
THE TWO MEN WERE FREQUENLY OPPOSED BY ARTHUR'S HALF SISTER, MORGAN LE FAY, WHOSE MAGICS RIVALED MERLIN'S OWN ONCE SHE COLLECTED CHTHON'S SCROLLS INTO THE TOME CALLED THE DARKHOLD.
ONE OF CAMELOT'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS WAS SIR PERCY OF SCANDIA. AS THE BLACK KNIGHT, PERCY WIELDED THE EBONY BLADE, A MYSTIC SWORD CRAFTED BY MERLIN FROM A FALLEN METEORITE CALLED THE STARSTONE, WHICH COULD DEFLECT MAGIC AND CUT THROUGH NEARLY ANY SUBSTANCE.
CENTURIES LATER IN EUROPE, A NOBLEMAN NAMED ESTEBAN CORAZÓN DE ABLO PROMISED HIS SOUL TO THE DEMON MEPHISTO IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SECRETS OF ALCHEMY. USING HIS NEWFOUND SKILLS, "DIABLO" DREW FROM THE BLOOD OF VAMPIRES TO CREATE THE ELIXIR VITAE, KEY TO IMMORTALITY.

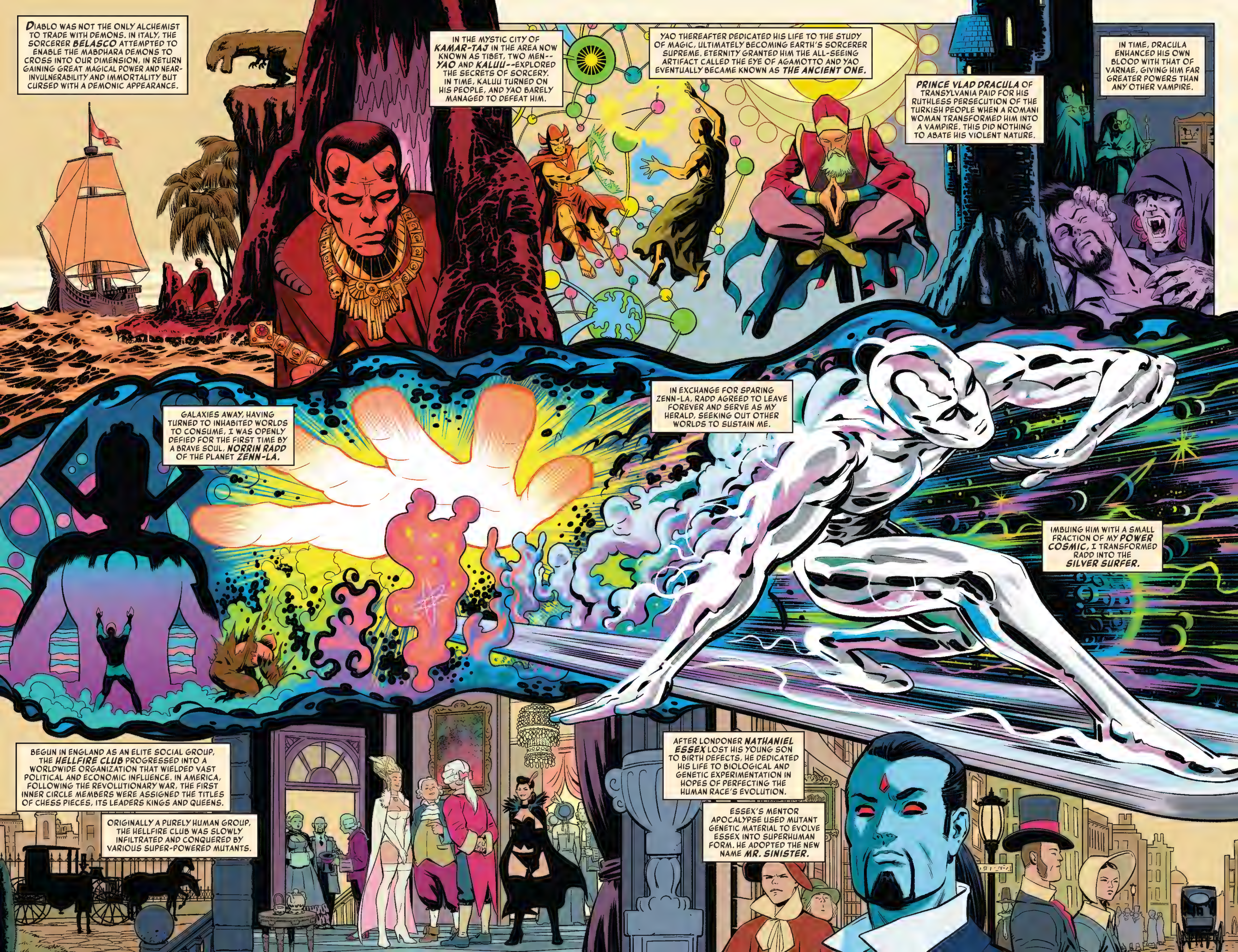


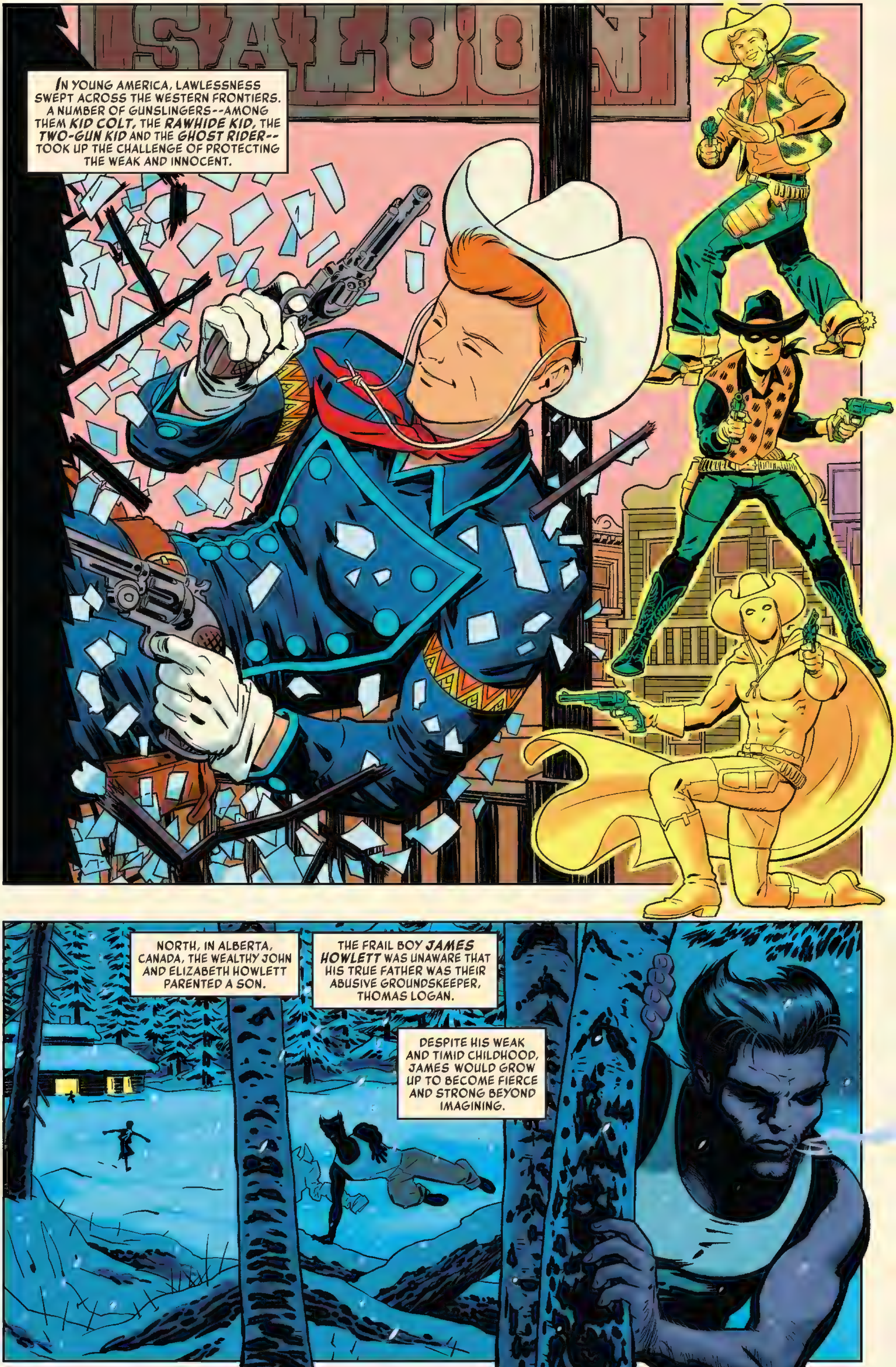
WHEN EARTH WAS VISITED BY THE ***THIRD HOST*** OF CELESTIALS, THE GODLIKE GIANTS UNINTENTIONALLY GARNERED THE WORSHIP OF SOME OF HUMANITY, DRAWING POWER AWAY FROM EARTH'S PANTHEONS.

CONFRONTED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ***COUNCIL OF GODHEADS***--ODIN, ZEUS AND VISHNU--THE THIRD HOST NEGOTIATED A THOUSAND-YEAR TRUCE OF NONINTERFERENCE.

TO PREPARE FOR THE CELESTIALS' EVENTUAL ***FOURTH HOST,*** WHICH WOULD JUDGE HUMANITY, ODIN CREATED ***THE DESTROYER,*** AN INVINCIBLE SUIT OF ARMOR IMBUED WITH POWER BY THE COUNCIL OF GODHEADS.

IN ASIA, THE MONGOL EMPIRE EVOLVED INTO THE SECRET SOCIETY KNOWN AS THE ***ATLAS FOUNDATION.*** EACH ATLAS LEADER--BENT ON WORLD DOMINATION--WAS A DESCENDANT AND RIGHTFUL HEIR TO GENGHIS KHAN, WHOSE BLOODLINE CONTINUED INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.


DIABLO WAS NOT THE ONLY ALCHEMIST TO TRADE WITH DEMONS. IN ITALY, THE SORCERER BELASCO ATTEMPTED TO ENABLE THE MABDHARA DEMONS TO CROSS INTO OUR DIMENSION, IN RETURN GAINING GREAT MAGICAL POWER AND NEAR-INVULNERABILITY AND IMMORTALITY BUT CURSED WITH A DEMONIC APPEARANCE.
IN THE MYSTIC CITY OF KAMAR-TAJ IN THE AREA NOW KNOWN AS TIBET, TWO MEN--YAO AND KALUU--EXPLORED THE SECRETS OF SORCERY. IN TIME, KALUU TURNED ON HIS PEOPLE, AND YAO BARELY MANAGED TO DEFEAT HIM.
YAO THEREAFTER DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE STUDY OF MAGIC, ULTIMATELY BECOMING EARTH'S SORCERER SUPREME. ETERNITY GRANTED HIM THE ALL-SEEING ARTIFACT CALLED THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO AND YAO EVENTUALLY BECAME KNOWN AS THE ANCIENT ONE.
PRINCE VLAD DRACULA OF TRANSYLVANIA PAID FOR HIS RUTHLESS PERSECUTION OF THE TURKISH PEOPLE WHEN A ROMANI WOMAN TRANSFORMED HIM INTO A VAMPIRE. THIS DID NOTHING TO ABATE HIS VIOLENT NATURE.
IN TIME, DRACULA ENHANCED HIS OWN BLOOD WITH THAT OF VARNAE, GIVING HIM FAR GREATER POWERS THAN ANY OTHER VAMPIRE.
GALAXIES AWAY, HAVING TURNED TO INHABITED WORLDS TO CONSUME, I WAS OPENLY DEFIED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY A BRAVE SOUL, NORRIN RADD OF THE PLANET ZENN-LA.
IN EXCHANGE FOR SPARING ZENN-LA, RADD AGREED TO LEAVE FOREVER AND SERVE AS MY HERALD, SEEKING OUT OTHER WORLDS TO SUSTAIN ME.
IMBUING HIM WITH A SMALL FRACTION OF MY POWER COSMIC, I TRANSFORMED RADD INTO THE SILVER SURFER.
BEGUN IN ENGLAND AS AN ELITE SOCIAL GROUP, THE HELLFIRE CLUB PROGRESSED INTO A WORLDWIDE ORGANIZATION THAT WIELDED VAST POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INFLUENCE. IN AMERICA, FOLLOWING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, THE FIRST INNER CIRCLE MEMBERS WERE ASSIGNED THE TITLES OF CHESS PIECES, ITS LEADERS KINGS AND QUEENS.
ORIGINALLY A PURELY HUMAN GROUP, THE HELLFIRE CLUB WAS SLOWLY INFILTRATED AND CONQUERED BY VARIOUS SUPER-POWERED MUTANTS.
AFTER LONDONER NATHANIEL ESSEX LOST HIS YOUNG SON TO BIRTH DEFECTS, HE DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO BIOLOGICAL AND GENETIC EXPERIMENTATION IN HOPES OF PERFECTING THE HUMAN RACE'S EVOLUTION.
ESSEX'S MENTOR APOCALYPSE USED MUTANT GENETIC MATERIAL TO EVOLVE ESSEX INTO SUPERHUMAN FORM. HE ADOPTED THE NEW NAME MR. SINISTER.


SALOON
IN YOUNG AMERICA, LAWLESSNESS SWEPT ACROSS THE WESTERN FRONTIERS. A NUMBER OF GUNSLINGERS--AMONG THEM ***KID COLT***, THE ***RAWHIDE KID***, THE ***TWO-GUN KID*** AND THE ***GHOST RIDER***--TOOK UP THE CHALLENGE OF PROTECTING THE WEAK AND INNOCENT.
NORTH, IN ALBERTA, CANADA, THE WEALTHY JOHN AND ELIZABETH HOWLETT PARENTED A SON.
THE FRAIL BOY ***JAMES HOWLETT*** WAS UNAWARE THAT HIS TRUE FATHER WAS THEIR ABUSIVE GROUNDSKEEPER, THOMAS LOGAN.
DESPITE HIS WEAK AND TIMID CHILDHOOD, JAMES WOULD GROW UP TO BECOME FIERCE AND STRONG BEYOND IMAGINING.

EVERYTHING GOING BLACK
GIRL
COMICS

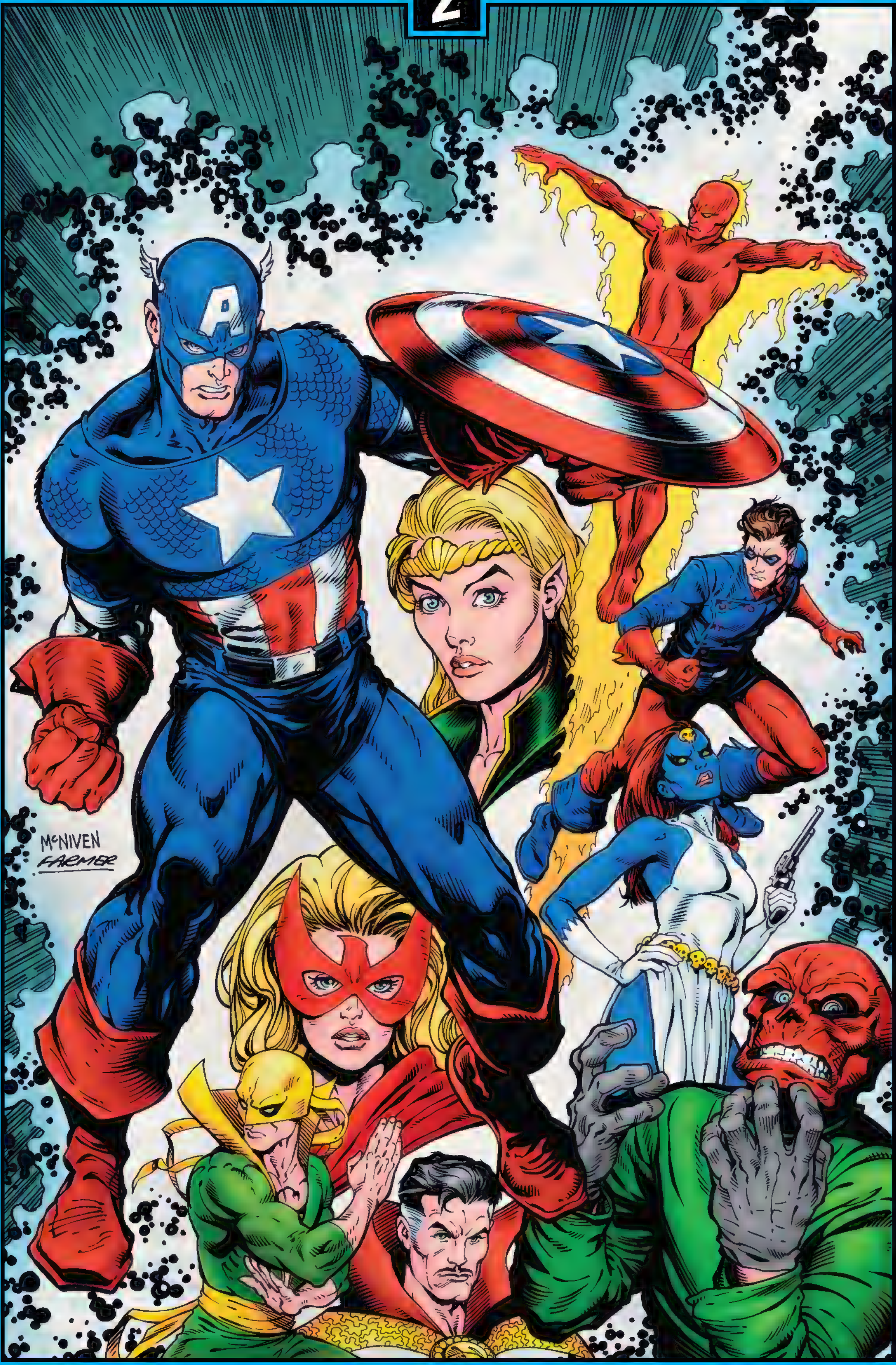
#1 VARIANT BY **NICK BRADSHAW** & **JOHN RAUCH**

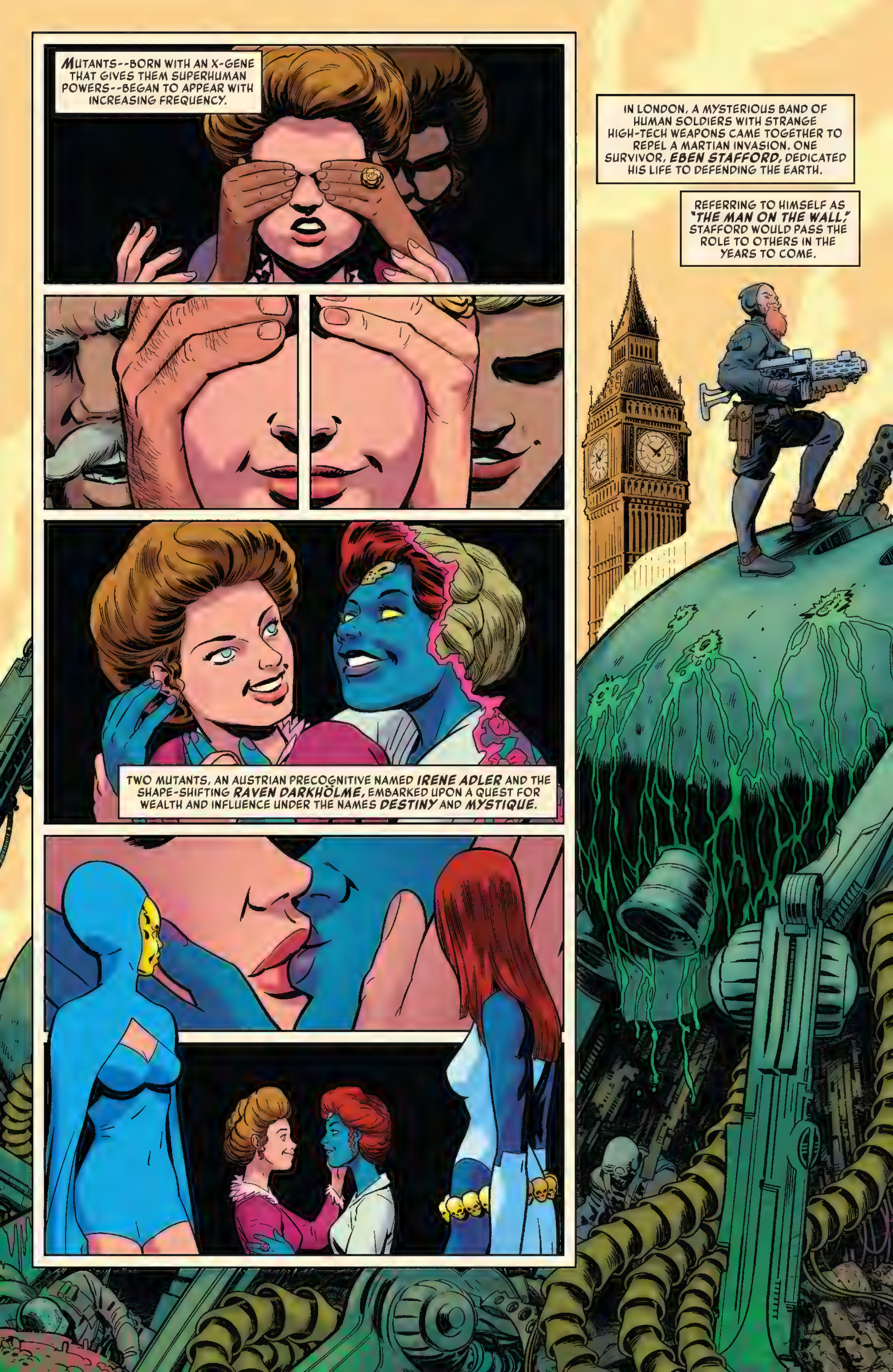
#1 VARIANT BY **DAVID MARQUEZ** & **MATTHEW WILSON**

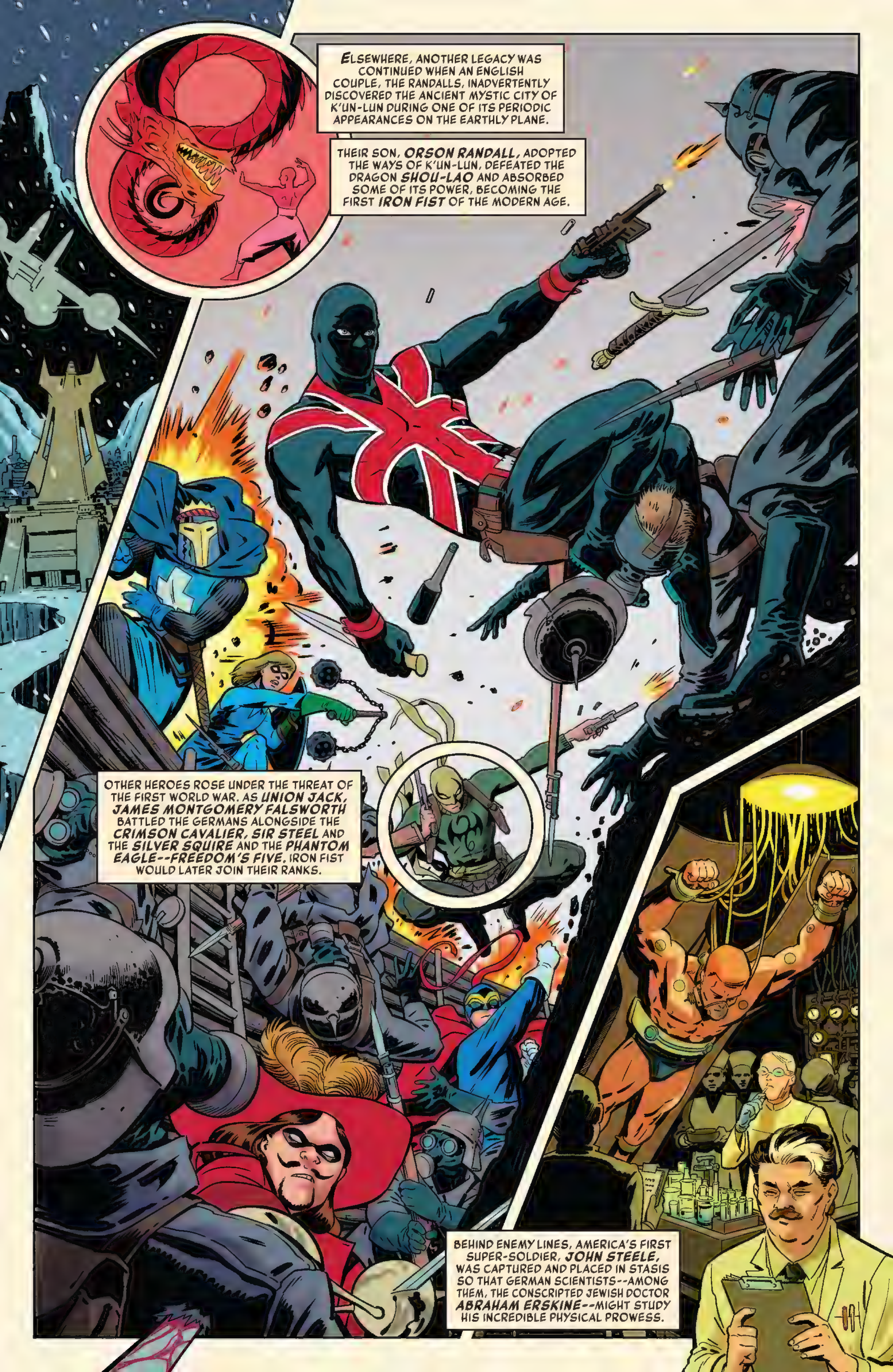
#1 HIDDEN GEM VARIANT BY **JOHN BUSCEMA**

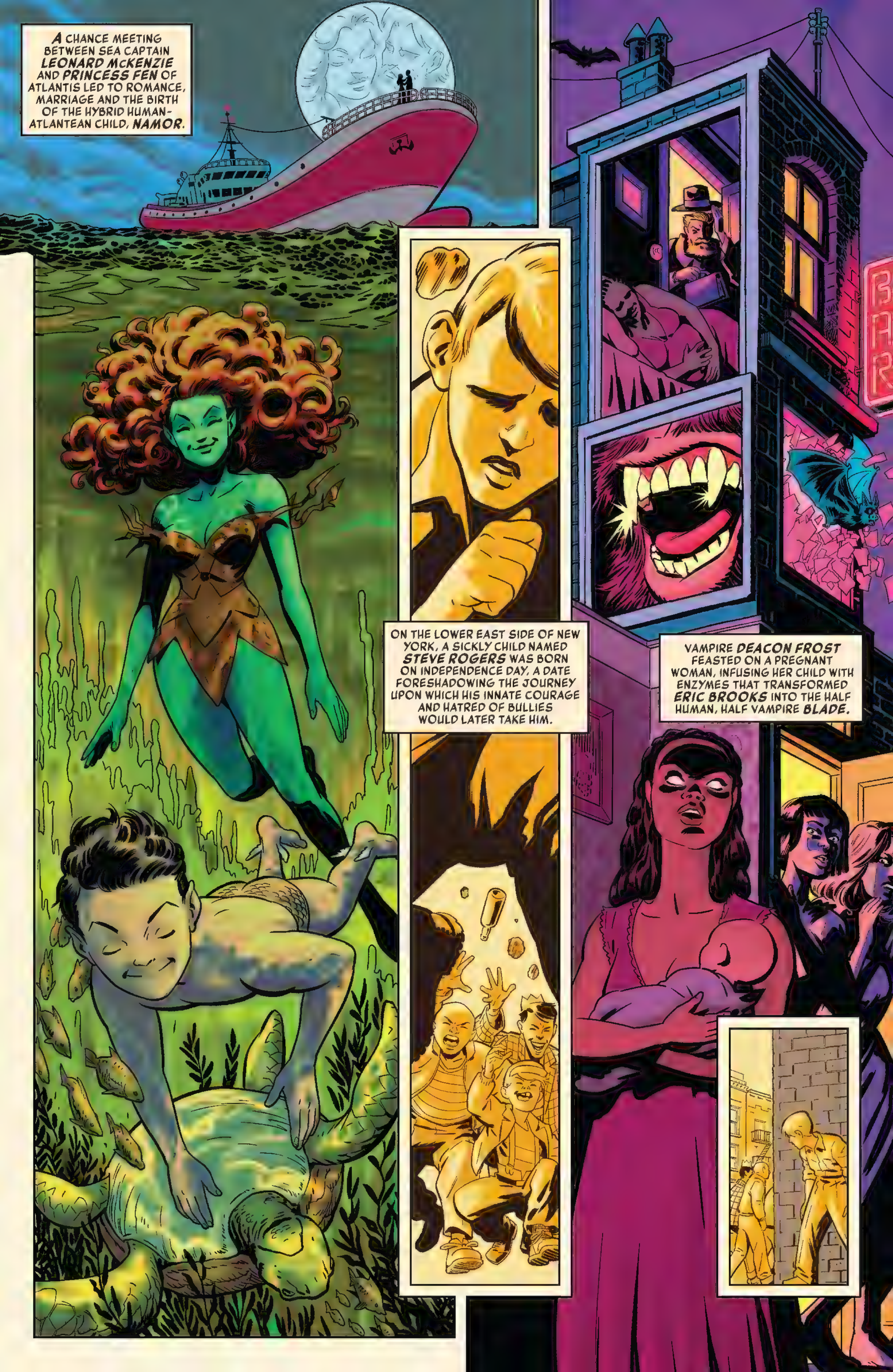
#1 VARIANT BY **JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ** & **ÁLVARO LÓPEZ**

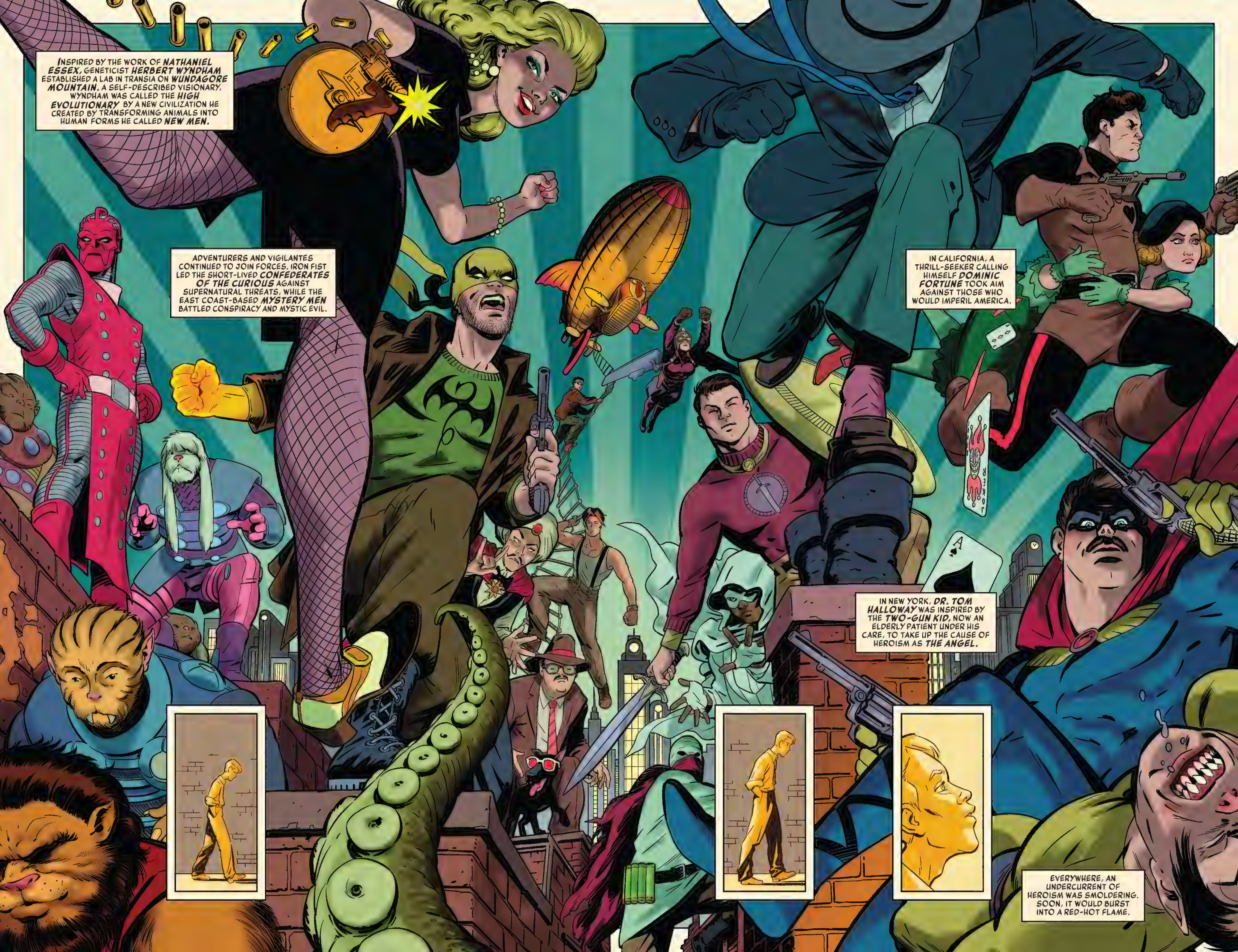
2

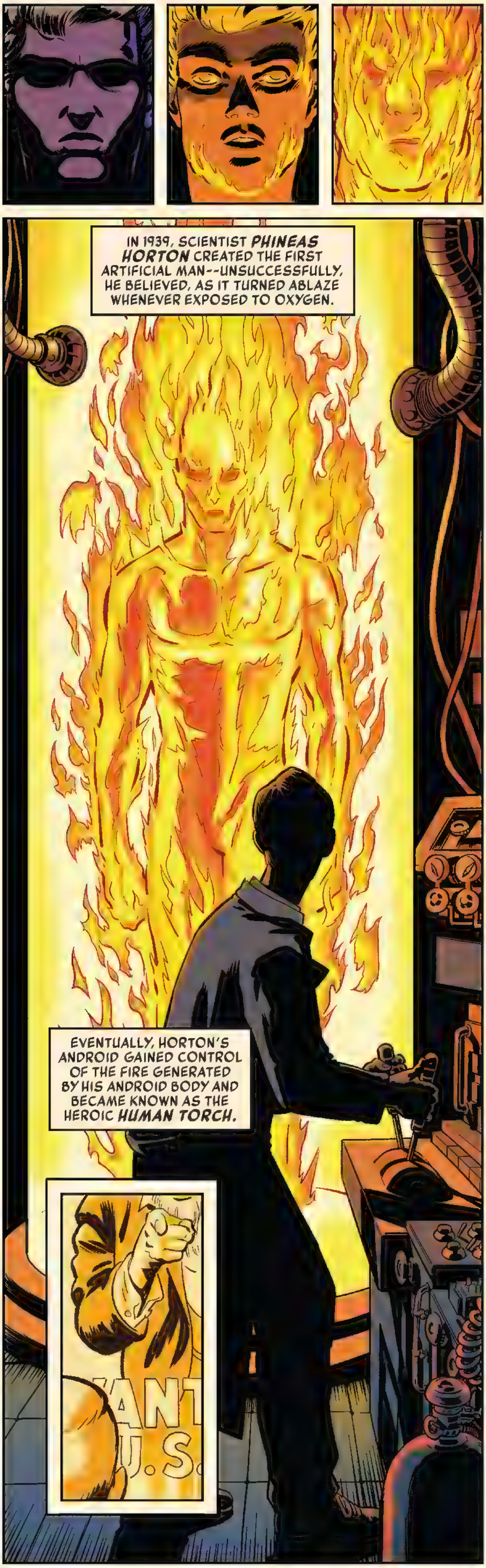

McNIVEN
FARMER

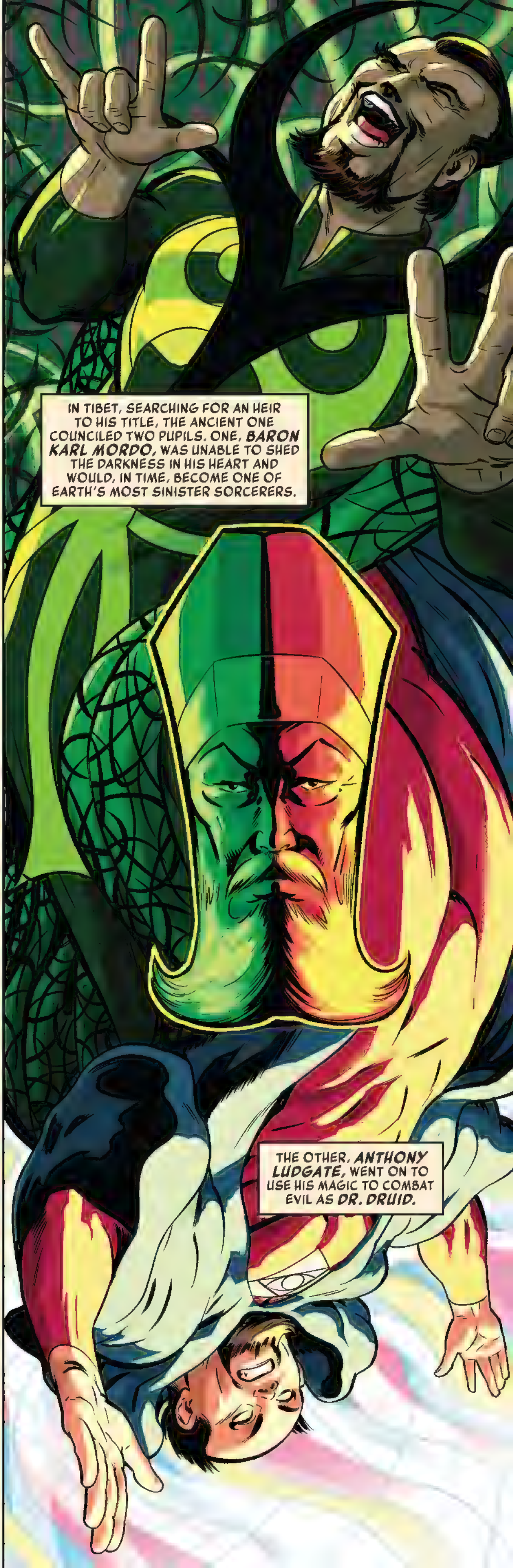

MUTANTS--BORN WITH AN X-GENE THAT GIVES THEM SUPERHUMAN POWERS--BEGAN TO APPEAR WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY.
TWO MUTANTS, AN AUSTRIAN PRECOGNITIVE NAMED **IRENE ADLER** AND THE SHAPE-SHIFTING **RAVEN DARKHÖLME,** EMBARKED UPON A QUEST FOR WEALTH AND INFLUENCE UNDER THE NAMES **DESTINY** AND **MYSTIQUE.**
IN LONDON, A MYSTERIOUS BAND OF HUMAN SOLDIERS WITH STRANGE HIGH-TECH WEAPONS CAME TOGETHER TO REPEL A MARTIAN INVASION. ONE SURVIVOR, **EBEN STAFFORD,** DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO DEFENDING THE EARTH.
REFERRING TO HIMSELF AS **"THE MAN ON THE WALL,"** STAFFORD WOULD PASS THE ROLE TO OTHERS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

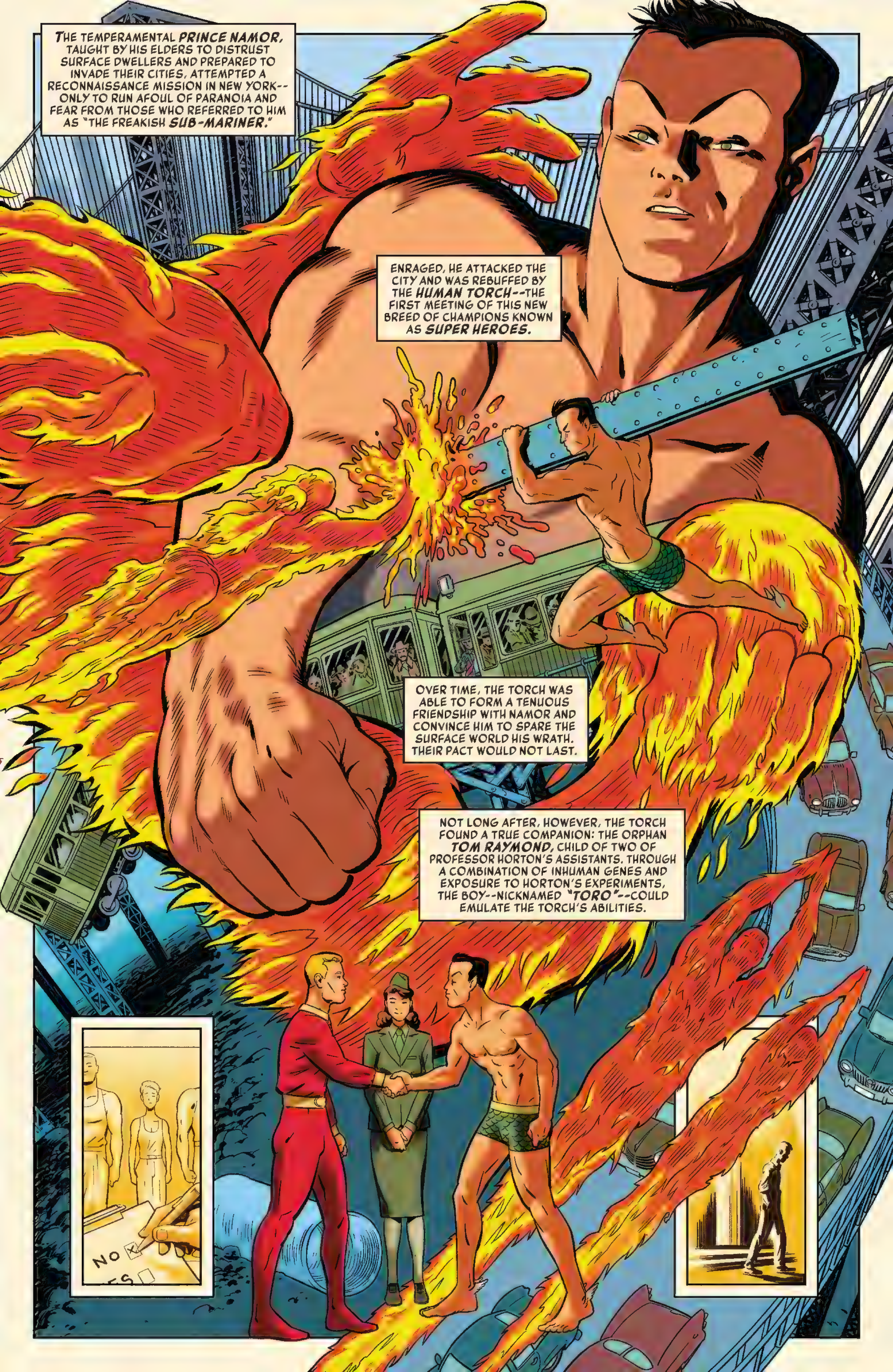

ELSEWHERE, ANOTHER LEGACY WAS CONTINUED WHEN AN ENGLISH COUPLE, THE RANDALLS, INADVERTENTLY DISCOVERED THE ANCIENT MYSTIC CITY OF K'UN-LUN DURING ONE OF ITS PERIODIC APPEARANCES ON THE EARTHLY PLANE.
THEIR SON, ORSON RANDALL, ADOPTED THE WAYS OF K'UN-LUN, DEFEATED THE DRAGON SHOU-LAO AND ABSORBED SOME OF ITS POWER, BECOMING THE FIRST IRON FIST OF THE MODERN AGE.
OTHER HEROES ROSE UNDER THE THREAT OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR. AS UNION JACK, JAMES MONTGOMERY FALSWORTH BATTLED THE GERMANS ALONGSIDE THE CRIMSON CAVALIER, SIR STEEL AND THE SILVER SQUIRE AND THE PHANTOM EAGLE--FREEDOM'S FIVE. IRON FIST WOULD LATER JOIN THEIR RANKS.
BEHIND ENEMY LINES, AMERICA'S FIRST SUPER-SOLDIER, JOHN STEELE, WAS CAPTURED AND PLACED IN STASIS SO THAT GERMAN SCIENTISTS--AMONG THEM, THE CONSCRIPTED JEWISH DOCTOR ABRAHAM ERSKINE--MIGHT STUDY HIS INCREDIBLE PHYSICAL PROWESS.

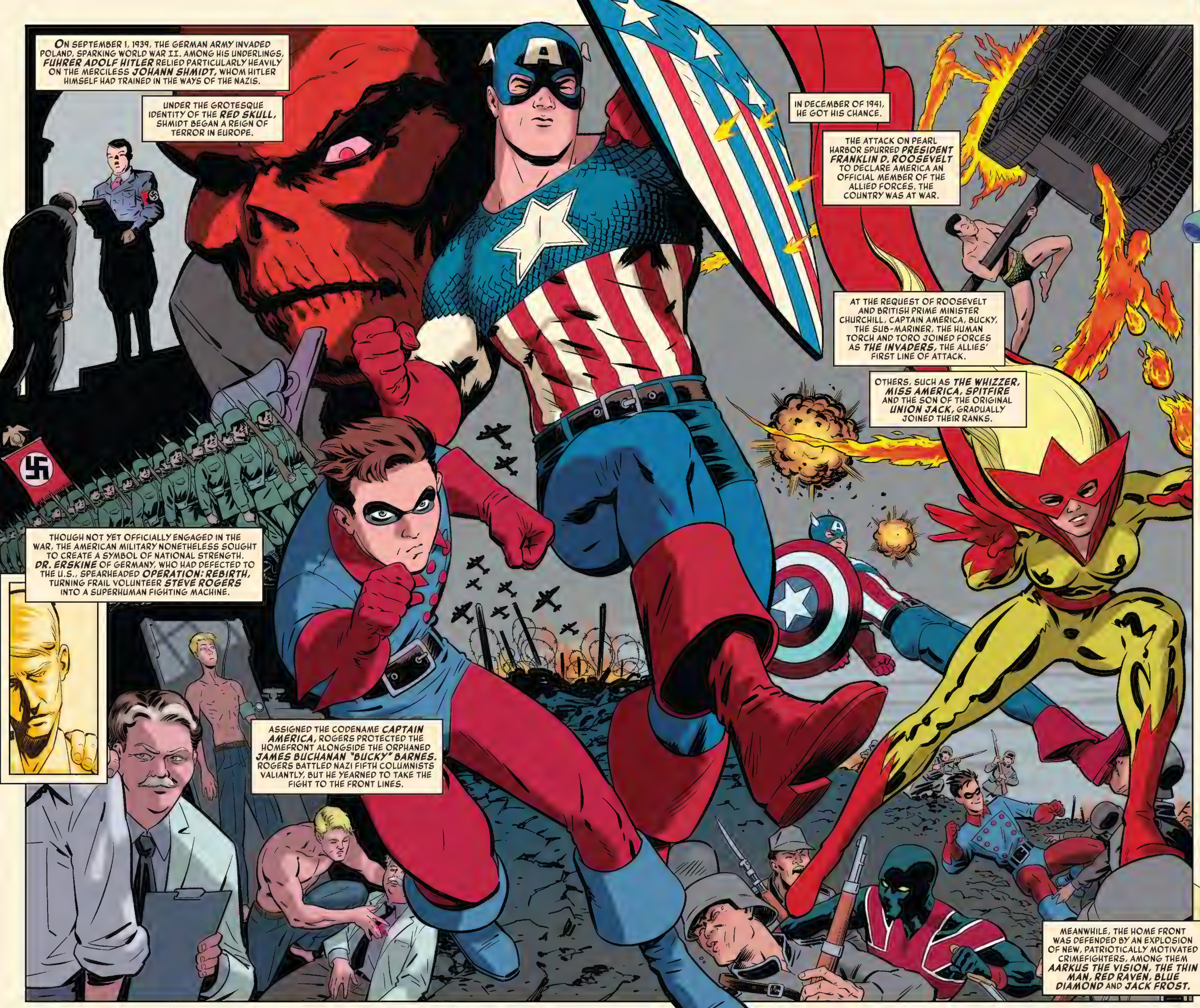

A CHANCE MEETING BETWEEN SEA CAPTAIN **LEONARD McKENZIE** AND **PRINCESS FEN** OF ATLANTIS LED TO ROMANCE, MARRIAGE AND THE BIRTH OF THE HYBRID HUMAN-ATLANTEAN CHILD, **NAMOR**.
ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE OF NEW YORK, A SICKLY CHILD NAMED **STEVE ROGERS** WAS BORN ON INDEPENDENCE DAY, A DATE FORESHADOWING THE JOURNEY UPON WHICH HIS INNATE COURAGE AND HATRED OF BULLIES WOULD LATER TAKE HIM.
VAMPIRE **DEACON FROST** FEASTED ON A PREGNANT WOMAN, INFUSING HER CHILD WITH ENZYMES THAT TRANSFORMED **ERIC BROOKS** INTO THE HALF HUMAN, HALF VAMPIRE **BLADE**.
BAR


INSPIRED BY THE WORK OF NATHANIEL ESSEX, GENETICIST HERBERT WYNDHAM ESTABLISHED A LAB IN TRANSIA ON WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN. A SELF-DESCRIBED VISIONARY, WYNDHAM WAS CALLED THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY BY A NEW CIVILIZATION HE CREATED BY TRANSFORMING ANIMALS INTO HUMAN FORMS HE CALLED NEW MEN.
ADVENTURERS AND VIGILANTES CONTINUED TO JOIN FORCES. IRON FIST LED THE SHORT-LIVED CONFEDERATES OF THE CURIOUS AGAINST SUPERNATURAL THREATS, WHILE THE EAST COAST-BASED MYSTERY MEN BATTLED CONSPIRACY AND MYSTIC EVIL.
IN CALIFORNIA, A THRILL-SEEKER CALLING HIMSELF DOMINIC FORTUNE TOOK AIM AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD IMPERIL AMERICA.
IN NEW YORK, DR. TOM HALLOWAY WAS INSPIRED BY THE TWO-GUN KID, NOW AN ELDERLY PATIENT UNDER HIS CARE, TO TAKE UP THE CAUSE OF HEROISM AS THE ANGEL.
EVERYWHERE, AN UNDERCURRENT OF HEROISM WAS SMOLDERING. SOON, IT WOULD BURST INTO A RED-HOT FLAME.


IN 1939, SCIENTIST **PHINEAS HORTON** CREATED THE FIRST ARTIFICIAL MAN--UNSUCCESSFULLY, HE BELIEVED, AS IT TURNED ABLAZE WHENEVER EXPOSED TO OXYGEN.
EVENTUALLY, HORTON'S ANDROID GAINED CONTROL OF THE FIRE GENERATED BY HIS ANDROID BODY AND BECAME KNOWN AS THE HEROIC **HUMAN TORCH.**
ANT
U.S.


IN TIBET, SEARCHING FOR AN HEIR TO HIS TITLE, THE ANCIENT ONE COUNCILED TWO PUPILS. ONE, **BARON KARL MORDO,** WAS UNABLE TO SHED THE DARKNESS IN HIS HEART AND WOULD, IN TIME, BECOME ONE OF EARTH'S MOST SINISTER SORCERERS.
THE OTHER, **ANTHONY LUDGATE,** WENT ON TO USE HIS MAGIC TO COMBAT EVIL AS **DR. DRUID.**


THE TEMPERAMENTAL **PRINCE NAMOR,** TAUGHT BY HIS ELDERS TO DISTRUST SURFACE DWELLERS AND PREPARED TO INVADE THEIR CITIES, ATTEMPTED A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION IN NEW YORK-- ONLY TO RUN AFOUL OF PARANOIA AND FEAR FROM THOSE WHO REFERRED TO HIM AS "THE FREAKISH **SUB-MARINER.**"
ENRAGED, HE ATTACKED THE CITY AND WAS REBUFFED BY THE **HUMAN TORCH**--THE FIRST MEETING OF THIS NEW BREED OF CHAMPIONS KNOWN AS **SUPER HEROES.**
OVER TIME, THE TORCH WAS ABLE TO FORM A TENUOUS FRIENDSHIP WITH NAMOR AND CONVINCE HIM TO SPARE THE SURFACE WORLD HIS WRATH. THEIR PACT WOULD NOT LAST.
NOT LONG AFTER, HOWEVER, THE TORCH FOUND A TRUE COMPANION: THE ORPHAN **TOM RAYMOND,** CHILD OF TWO OF PROFESSOR HORTON'S ASSISTANTS. THROUGH A COMBINATION OF INHUMAN GENES AND EXPOSURE TO HORTON'S EXPERIMENTS, THE BOY--NICKNAMED **"TORO"**--COULD EMULATE THE TORCH'S ABILITIES.
NO ☒



On September 1, 1939, the German army invaded Poland, sparking World War II. Among his underlings, ***Fuhrer Adolf Hitler*** relied particularly heavily on the merciless ***Johann Shmidt,*** whom Hitler himself had trained in the ways of the Nazis.

Under the grotesque identity of the ***Red Skull,*** Shmidt began a reign of terror in Europe.

Though not yet officially engaged in the war, the American military nonetheless sought to create a symbol of national strength. ***Dr. Erskine*** of Germany, who had defected to the U.S., spearheaded ***Operation: Rebirth,*** turning frail volunteer ***Steve Rogers*** into a superhuman fighting machine.

Assigned the codename ***Captain America,*** Rogers protected the homefront alongside the orphaned ***James Buchanan "Bucky" Barnes.*** Rogers battled Nazi fifth columnists valiantly, but he yearned to take the fight to the front lines.

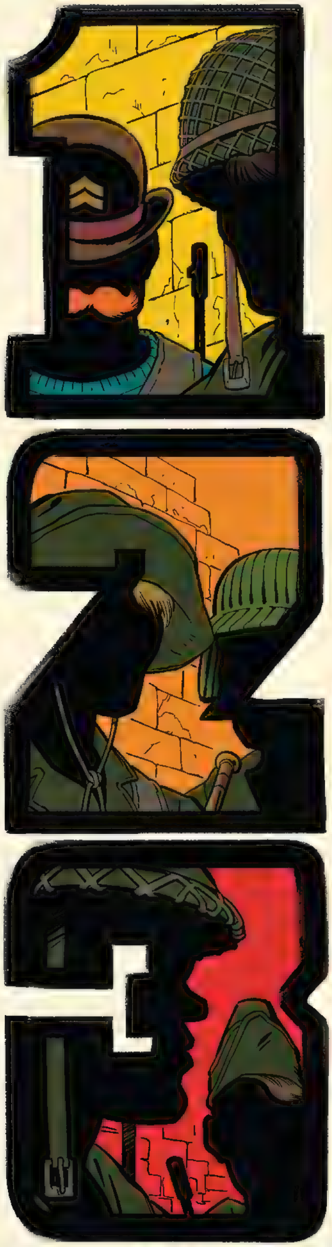
In December of 1941, he got his chance.

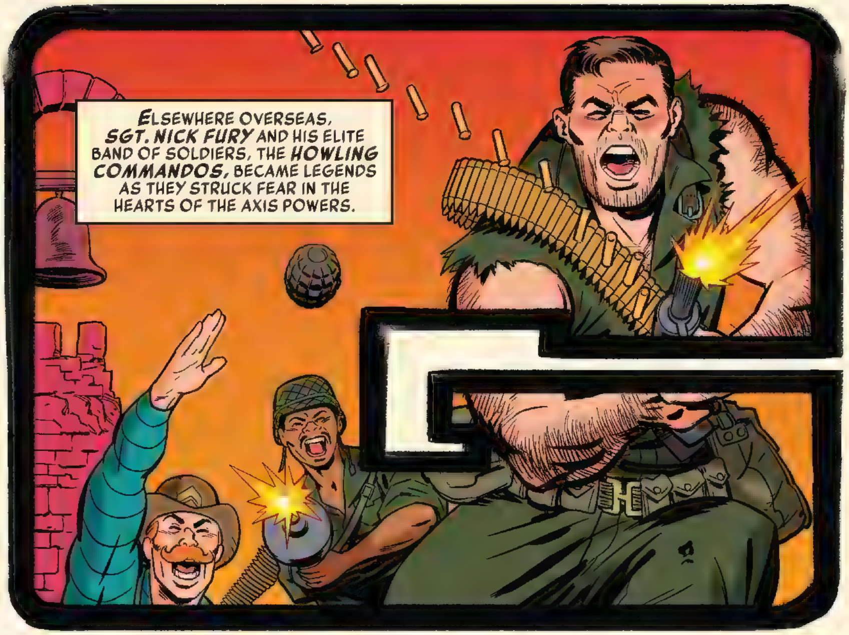
The attack on Pearl Harbor spurred ***President Franklin D. Roosevelt*** to declare America an official member of the Allied Forces. The country was at war.

At the request of Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill, Captain America, Bucky, the Sub-Mariner, the Human Torch and Toro joined forces as ***The Invaders,*** the Allies' first line of attack.

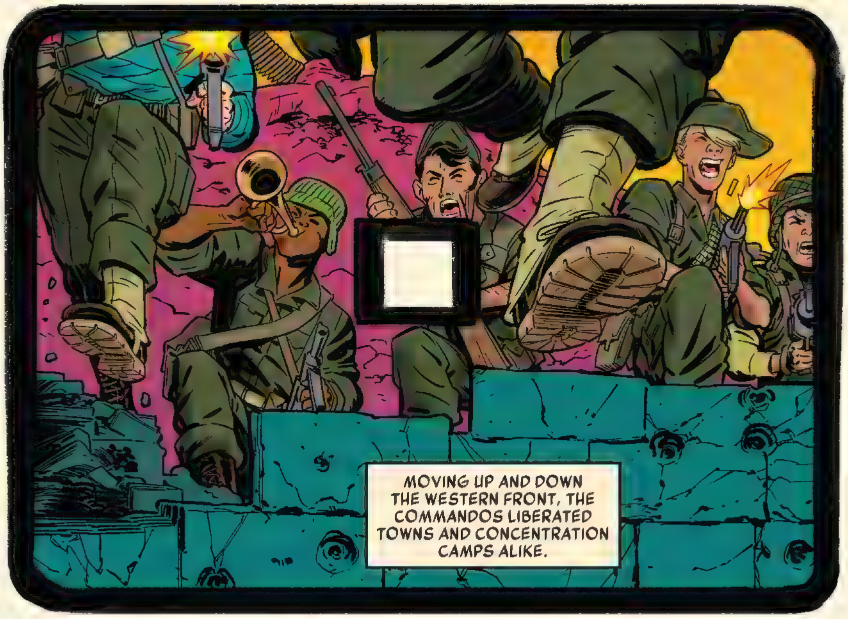
Others, such as ***The Whizzer, Miss America, Spitfire*** and the son of the original ***Union Jack,*** gradually joined their ranks.

Meanwhile, the home front was defended by an explosion of new, patriotically motivated crimefighters, among them ***Aarkus the Vision, the Thin Man, Red Raven, Blue Diamond*** and ***Jack Frost.***

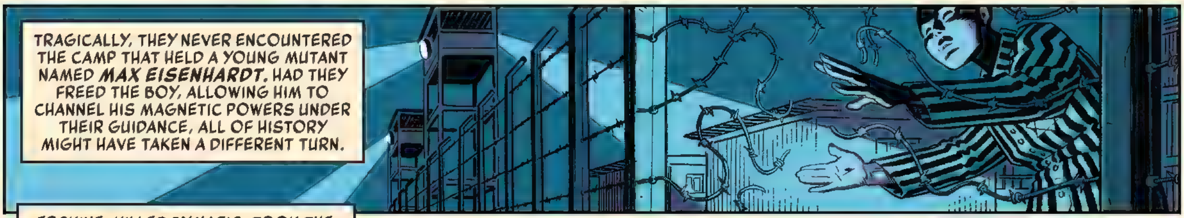




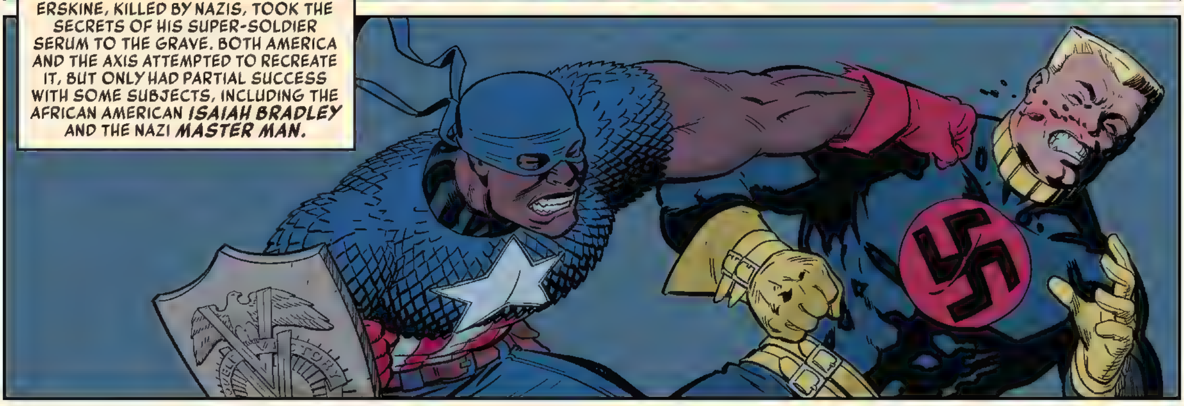
*E*LSEWHERE OVERSEAS, ***SGT. NICK FURY*** AND HIS ELITE BAND OF SOLDIERS, THE ***HOWLING COMMANDOS,*** BECAME LEGENDS AS THEY STRUCK FEAR IN THE HEARTS OF THE AXIS POWERS.



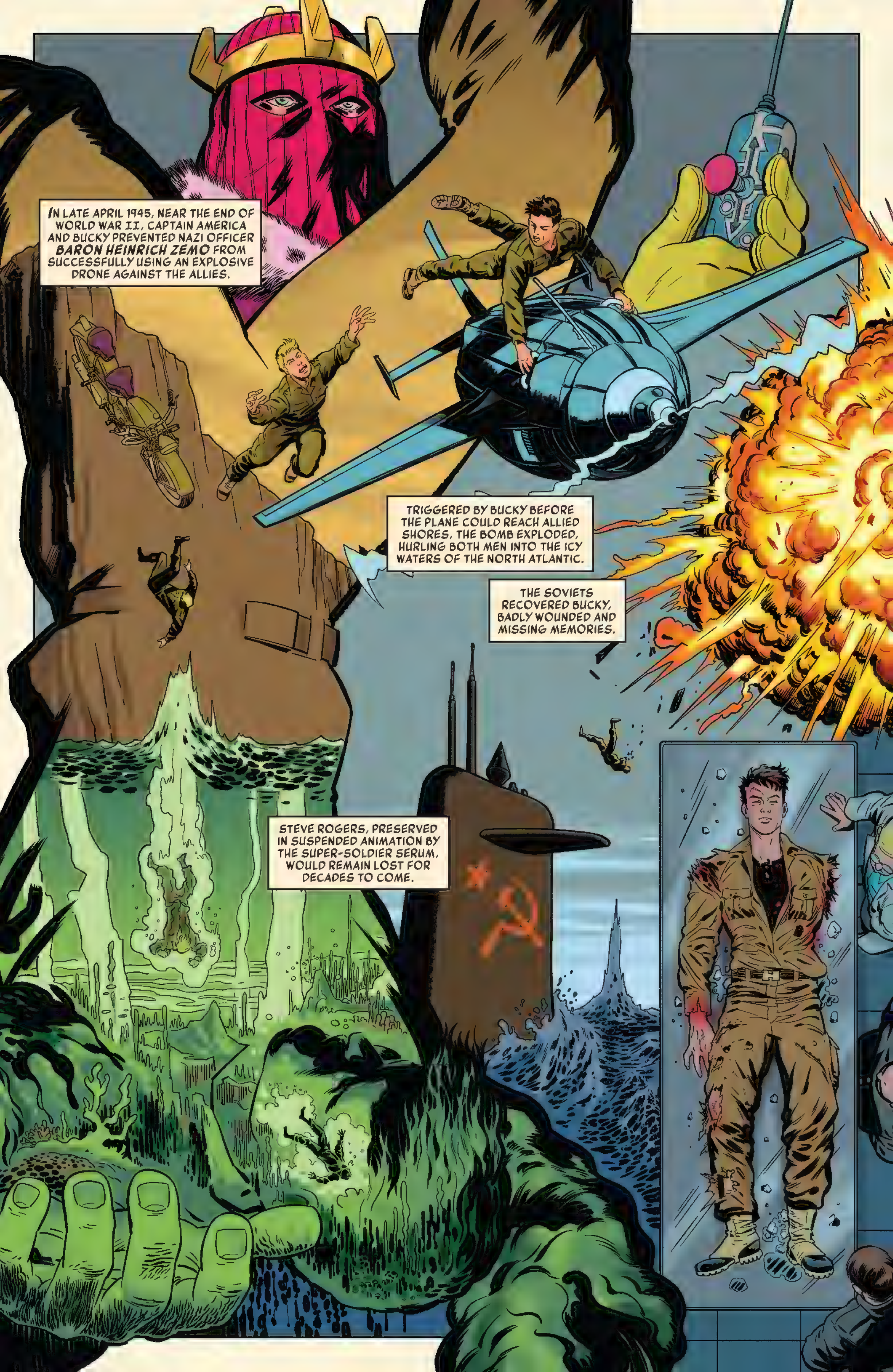
MOVING UP AND DOWN THE WESTERN FRONT, THE COMMANDOS LIBERATED TOWNS AND CONCENTRATION CAMPS ALIKE.

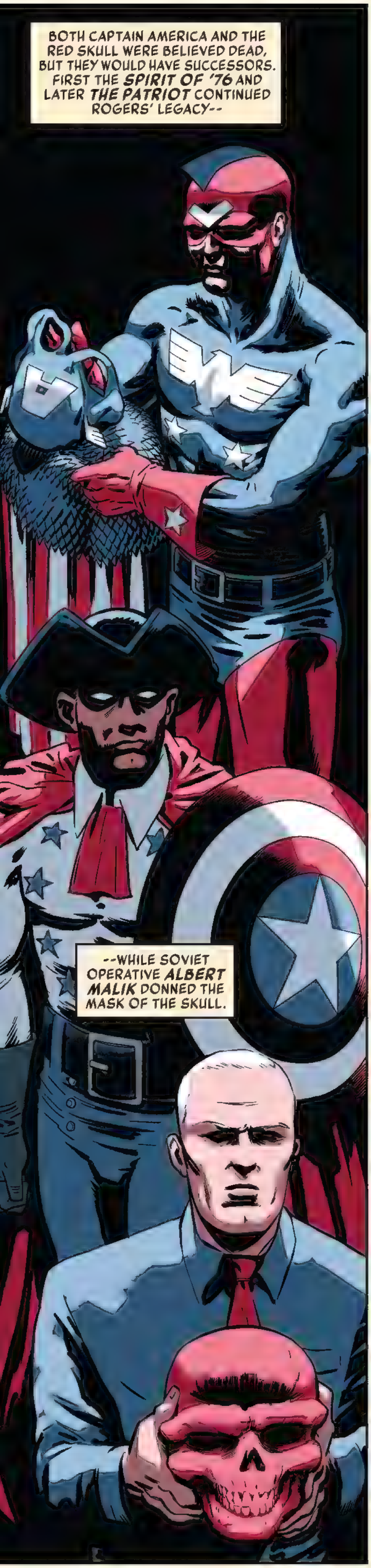


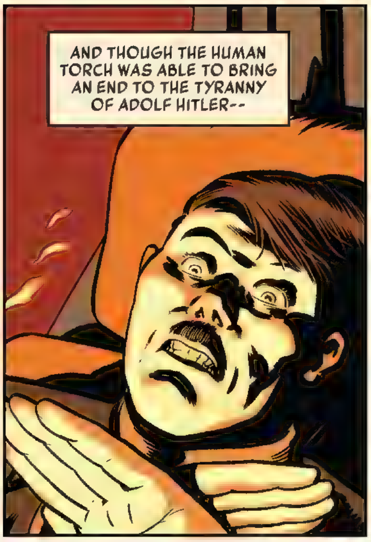
TRAGICALLY, THEY NEVER ENCOUNTERED THE CAMP THAT HELD A YOUNG MUTANT NAMED ***MAX EISENHARDT.*** HAD THEY FREED THE BOY, ALLOWING HIM TO CHANNEL HIS MAGNETIC POWERS UNDER THEIR GUIDANCE, ALL OF HISTORY MIGHT HAVE TAKEN A DIFFERENT TURN.

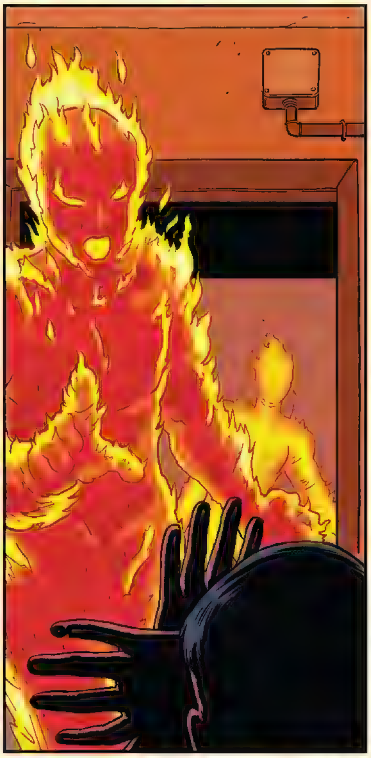


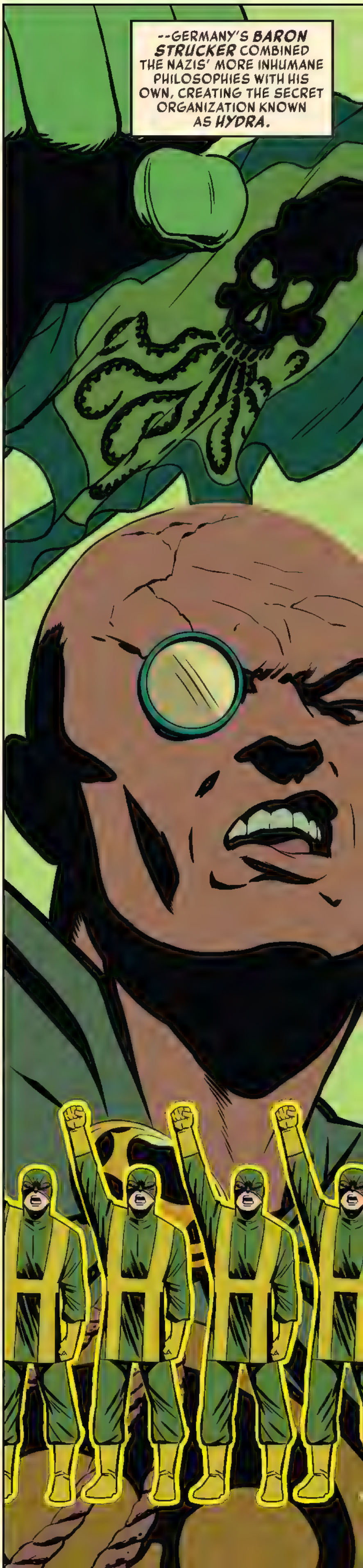
ERSKINE, KILLED BY NAZIS, TOOK THE SECRETS OF HIS SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM TO THE GRAVE. BOTH AMERICA AND THE AXIS ATTEMPTED TO RECREATE IT, BUT ONLY HAD PARTIAL SUCCESS WITH SOME SUBJECTS, INCLUDING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN ***ISAIAH BRADLEY*** AND THE NAZI ***MASTER MAN.***

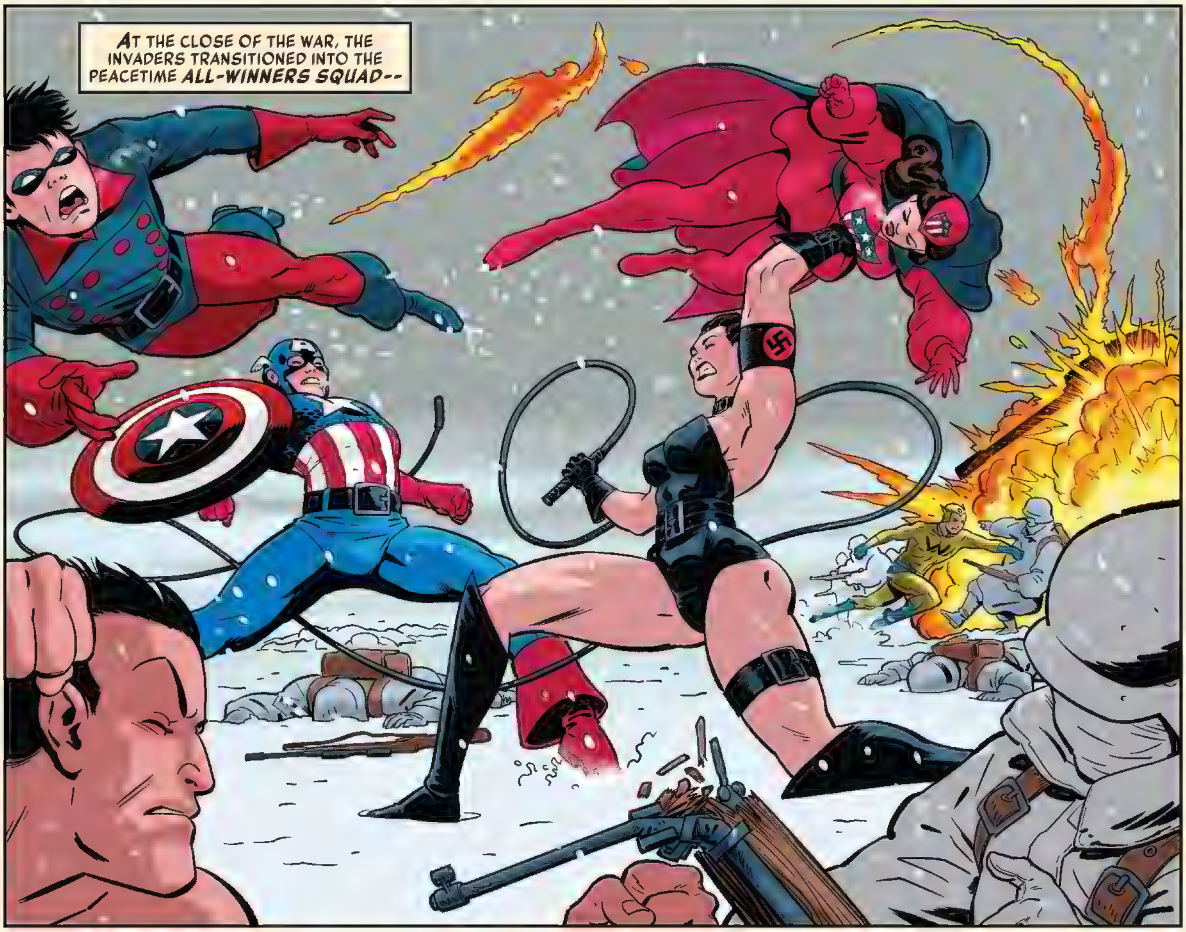

In late April 1945, near the end of World War II, Captain America and Bucky prevented Nazi officer **Baron Heinrich Zemo** from successfully using an explosive drone against the Allies.
Triggered by Bucky before the plane could reach Allied shores, the bomb exploded, hurling both men into the icy waters of the North Atlantic.
The Soviets recovered Bucky, badly wounded and missing memories.
Steve Rogers, preserved in suspended animation by the Super-Soldier Serum, would remain lost for decades to come.

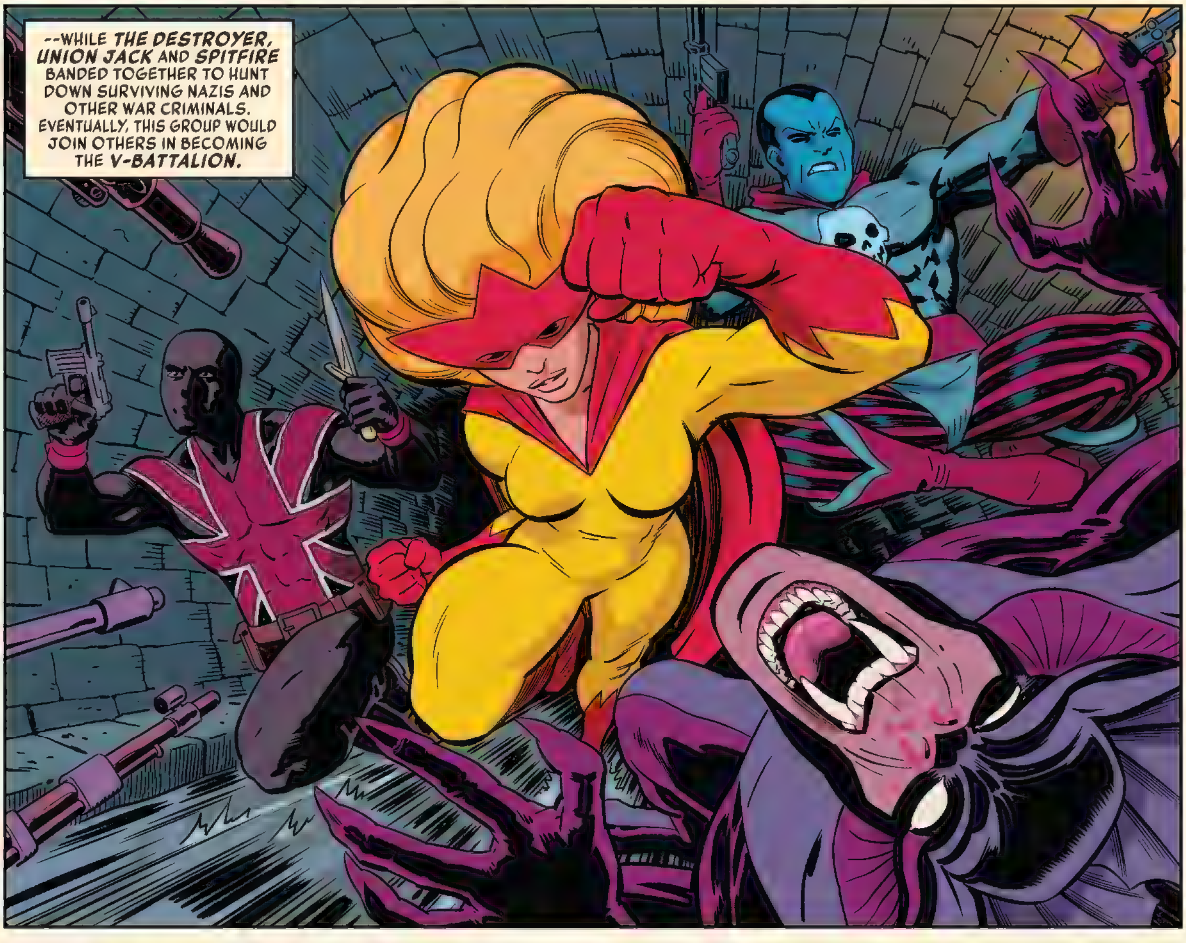

BOTH CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE RED SKULL WERE BELIEVED DEAD, BUT THEY WOULD HAVE SUCCESSORS. FIRST THE **SPIRIT OF '76** AND LATER **THE PATRIOT** CONTINUED ROGERS' LEGACY--
--WHILE SOVIET OPERATIVE **ALBERT MALIK** DONNED THE MASK OF THE SKULL.

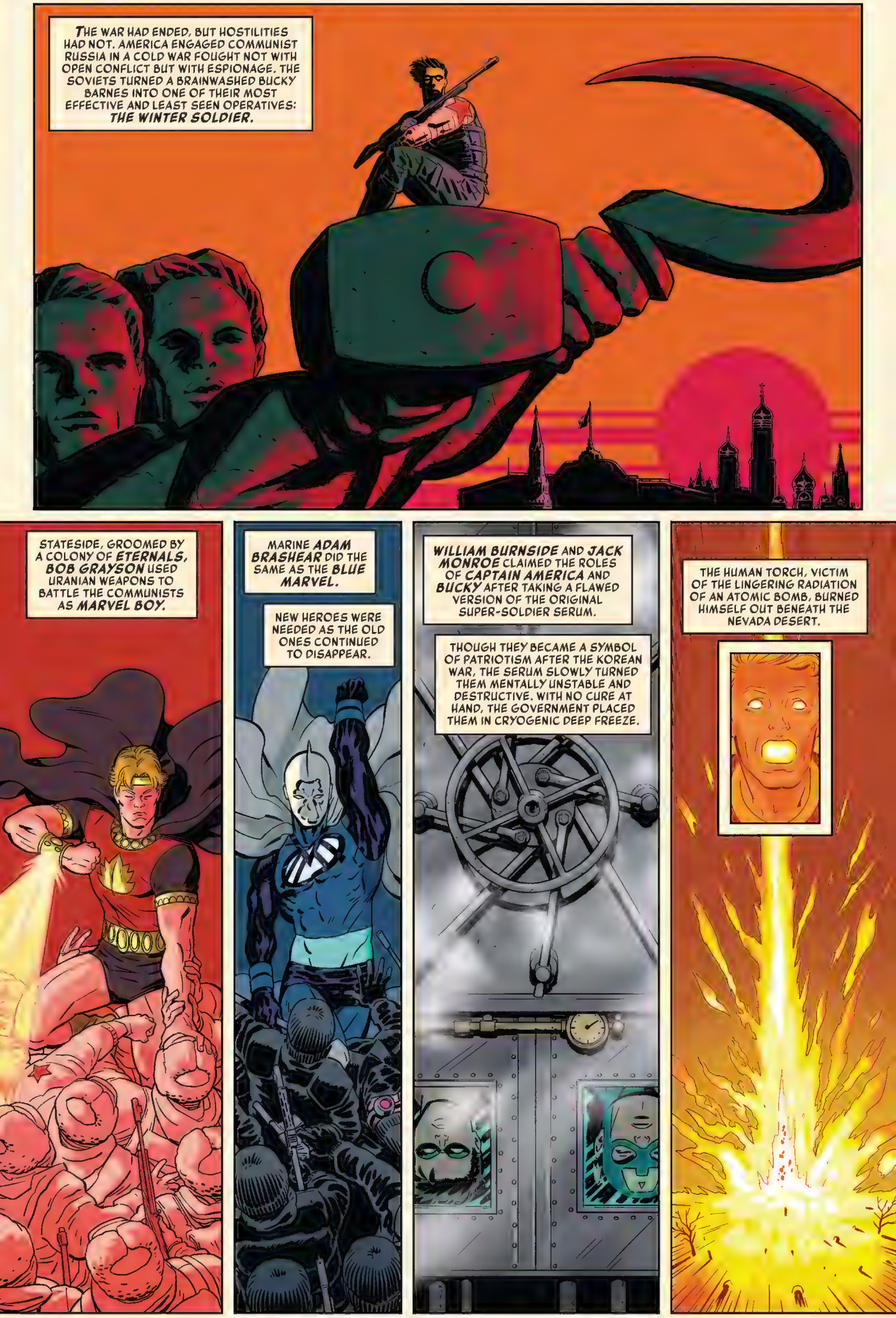

AND THOUGH THE HUMAN TORCH WAS ABLE TO BRING AN END TO THE TYRANNY OF ADOLF HITLER--

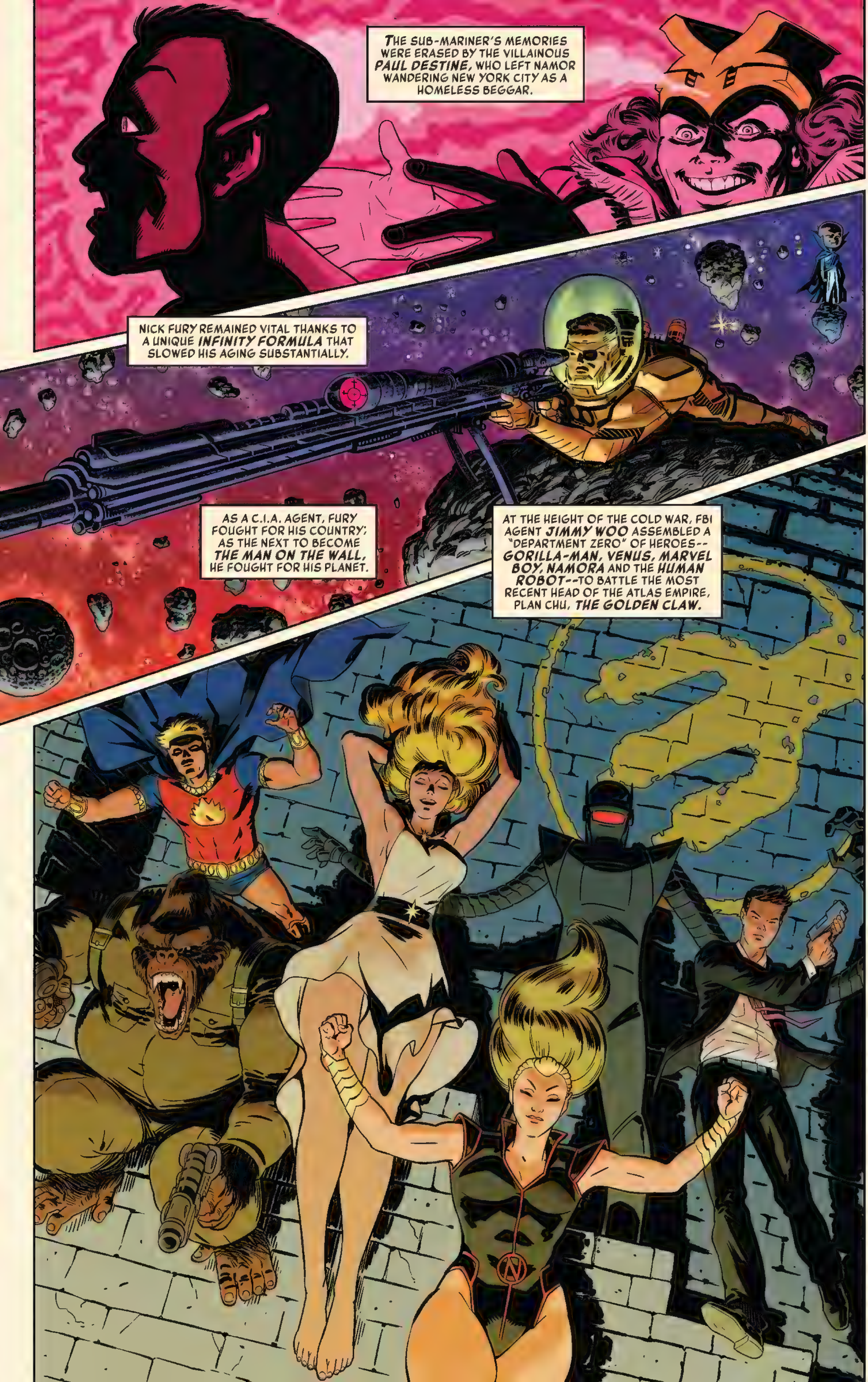



--GERMANY'S **BARON STRUCKER** COMBINED THE NAZIS' MORE INHUMANE PHILOSOPHIES WITH HIS OWN, CREATING THE SECRET ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS **HYDRA.**


AT THE CLOSE OF THE WAR, THE INVADERS TRANSITIONED INTO THE PEACETIME ***ALL-WINNERS SQUAD***--


--WHILE ***THE DESTROYER, UNION JACK*** AND ***SPITFIRE*** BANDED TOGETHER TO HUNT DOWN SURVIVING NAZIS AND OTHER WAR CRIMINALS. EVENTUALLY, THIS GROUP WOULD JOIN OTHERS IN BECOMING THE ***V-BATTALION.***


THE WAR HAD ENDED, BUT HOSTILITIES HAD NOT. AMERICA ENGAGED COMMUNIST RUSSIA IN A COLD WAR FOUGHT NOT WITH OPEN CONFLICT BUT WITH ESPIONAGE. THE SOVIETS TURNED A BRAINWASHED BUCKY BARNES INTO ONE OF THEIR MOST EFFECTIVE AND LEAST SEEN OPERATIVES: **THE WINTER SOLDIER.**
STATESIDE, GROOMED BY A COLONY OF **ETERNALS, BOB GRAYSON** USED URANIAN WEAPONS TO BATTLE THE COMMUNISTS AS **MARVEL BOY.**
MARINE **ADAM BRASHEAR** DID THE SAME AS THE **BLUE MARVEL.**
NEW HEROES WERE NEEDED AS THE OLD ONES CONTINUED TO DISAPPEAR.
WILLIAM BURNSIDE AND **JACK MONROE** CLAIMED THE ROLES OF **CAPTAIN AMERICA** AND **BUCKY** AFTER TAKING A FLAWED VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM.
THOUGH THEY BECAME A SYMBOL OF PATRIOTISM AFTER THE KOREAN WAR, THE SERUM SLOWLY TURNED THEM MENTALLY UNSTABLE AND DESTRUCTIVE. WITH NO CURE AT HAND, THE GOVERNMENT PLACED THEM IN CRYOGENIC DEEP FREEZE.
THE HUMAN TORCH, VICTIM OF THE LINGERING RADIATION OF AN ATOMIC BOMB, BURNED HIMSELF OUT BENEATH THE NEVADA DESERT.

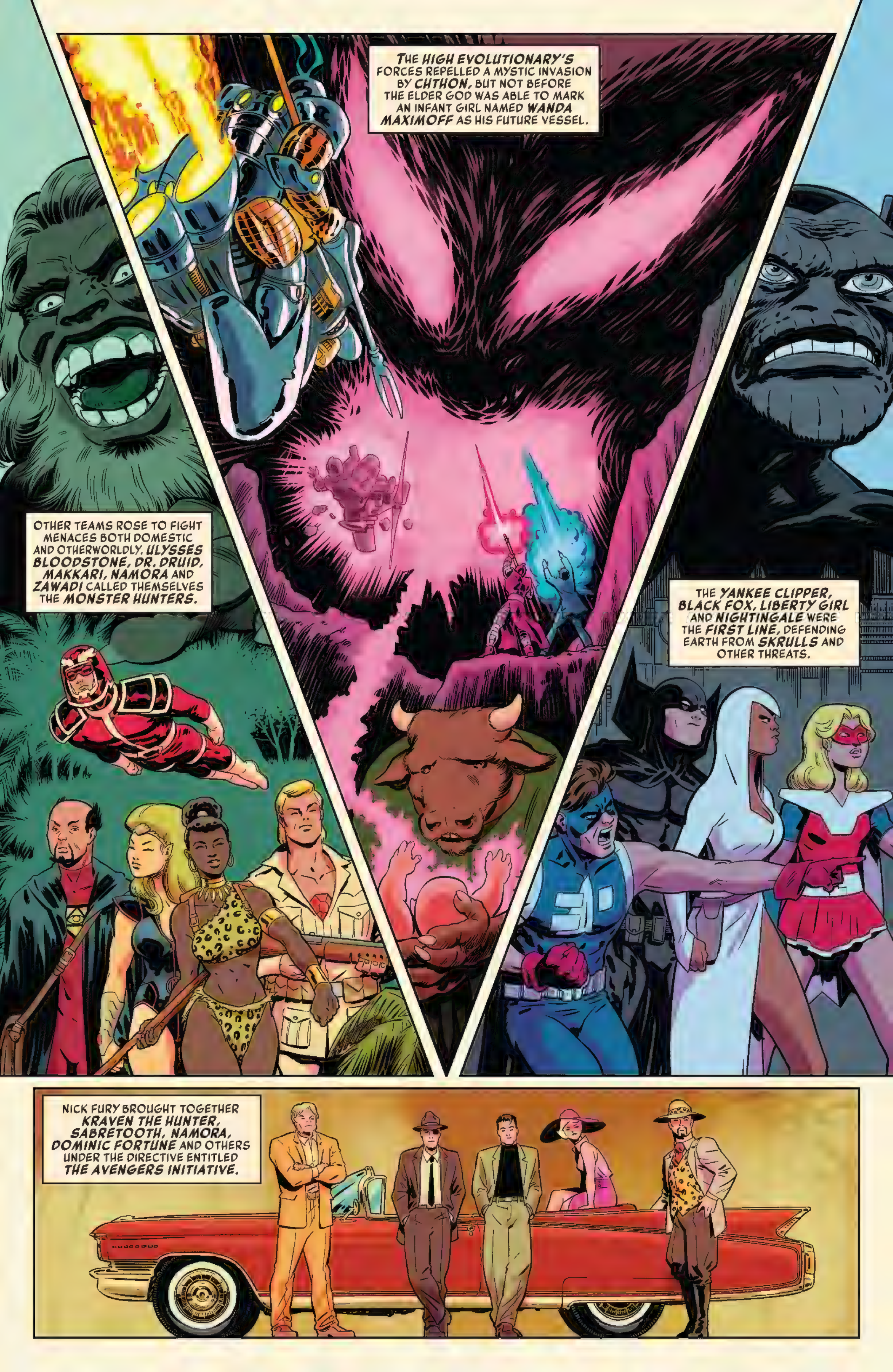


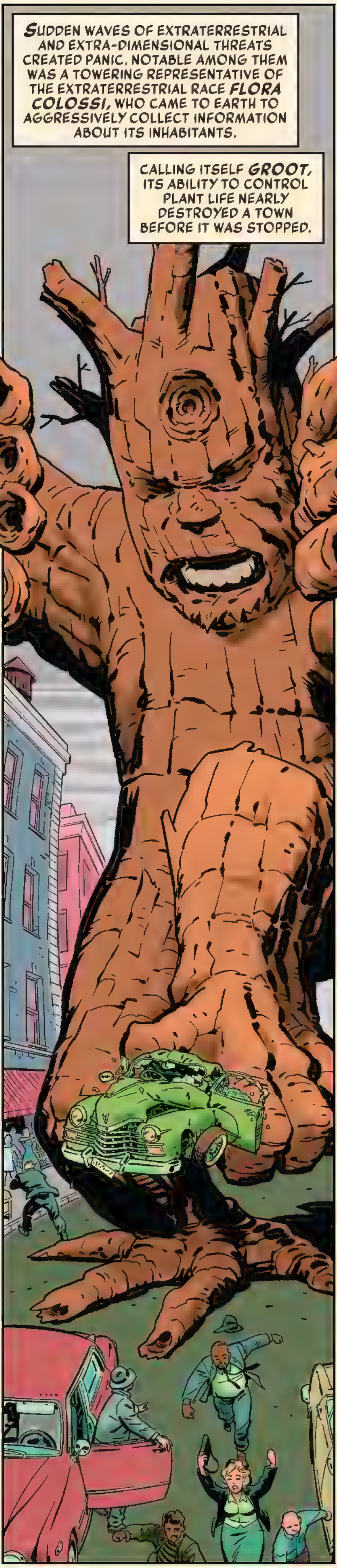
THE SUB-MARINER'S MEMORIES WERE ERASED BY THE VILLAINOUS ***PAUL DESTINE,*** WHO LEFT NAMOR WANDERING NEW YORK CITY AS A HOMELESS BEGGAR.

NICK FURY REMAINED VITAL THANKS TO A UNIQUE ***INFINITY FORMULA*** THAT SLOWED HIS AGING SUBSTANTIALLY.

AS A C.I.A. AGENT, FURY FOUGHT FOR HIS COUNTRY; AS THE NEXT TO BECOME ***THE MAN ON THE WALL,*** HE FOUGHT FOR HIS PLANET.

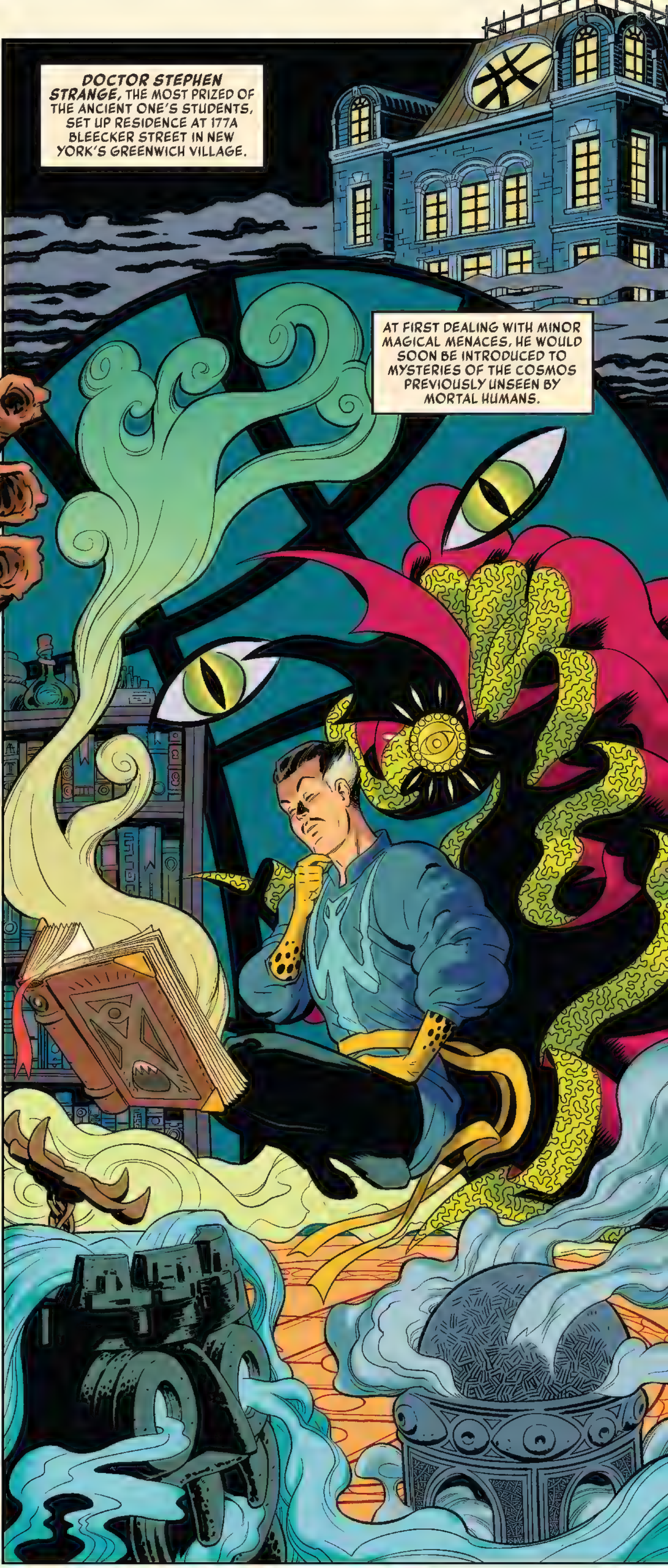
AT THE HEIGHT OF THE COLD WAR, FBI AGENT ***JIMMY WOO*** ASSEMBLED A "DEPARTMENT ZERO" OF HEROES-- ***GORILLA-MAN, VENUS, MARVEL BOY, NAMORA*** AND THE ***HUMAN ROBOT***--TO BATTLE THE MOST RECENT HEAD OF THE ATLAS EMPIRE, PLAN CHU, ***THE GOLDEN CLAW.***


THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S FORCES REPELLED A MYSTIC INVASION BY CHTHON, BUT NOT BEFORE THE ELDER GOD WAS ABLE TO MARK AN INFANT GIRL NAMED WANDA MAXIMOFF AS HIS FUTURE VESSEL.
OTHER TEAMS ROSE TO FIGHT MENACES BOTH DOMESTIC AND OTHERWORLDLY. ULYSSES BLOODSTONE, DR. DRUID, MAKKARI, NAMORA AND ZAWADI CALLED THEMSELVES THE MONSTER HUNTERS.
THE YANKEE CLIPPER, BLACK FOX, LIBERTY GIRL AND NIGHTINGALE WERE THE FIRST LINE, DEFENDING EARTH FROM SKRULLS AND OTHER THREATS.
NICK FURY BROUGHT TOGETHER KRAVEN THE HUNTER, SABRETOOTH, NAMORA, DOMINIC FORTUNE AND OTHERS UNDER THE DIRECTIVE ENTITLED THE AVENGERS INITIATIVE.



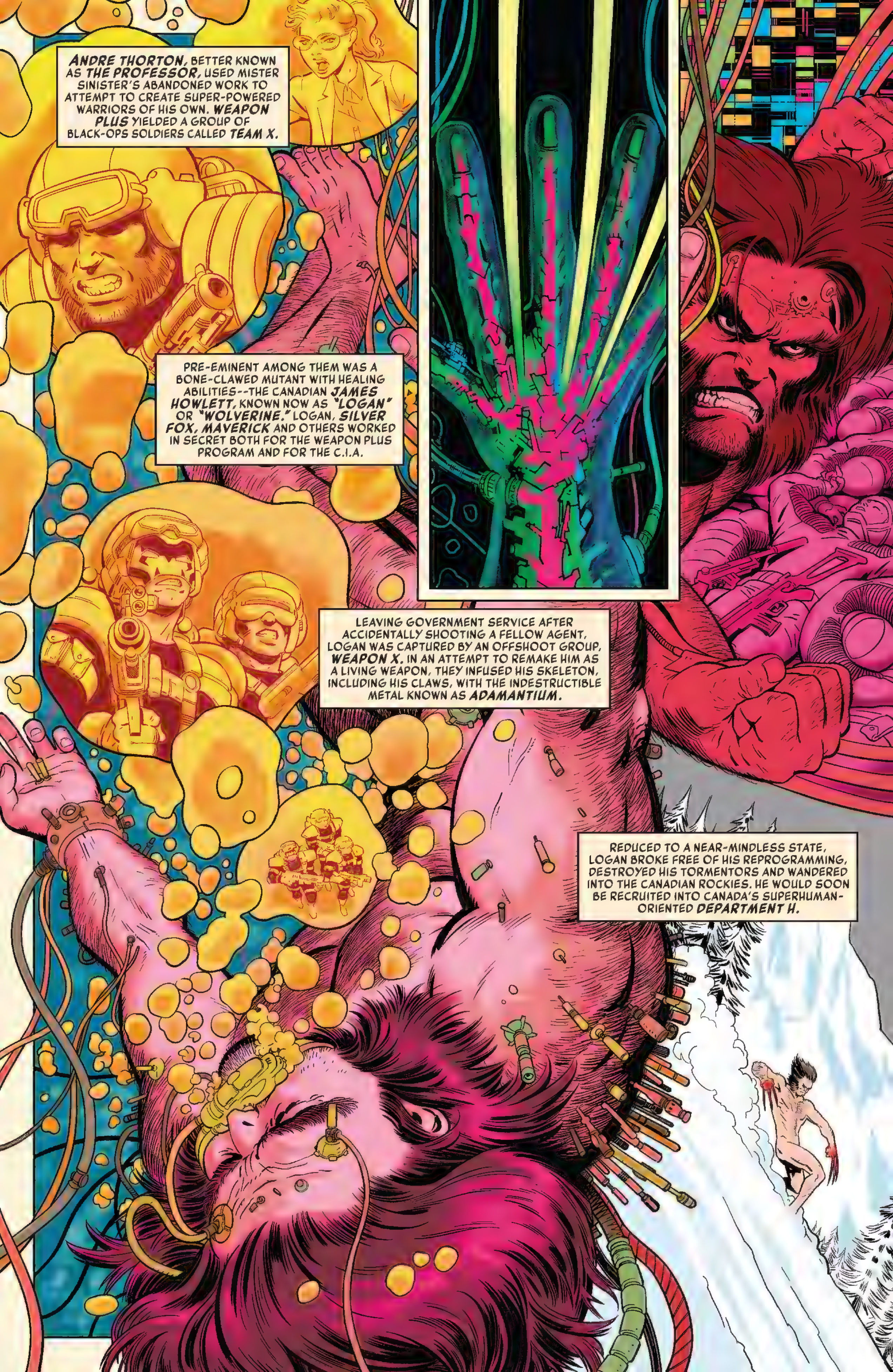
SUDDEN WAVES OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL AND EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL THREATS CREATED PANIC. NOTABLE AMONG THEM WAS A TOWERING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL RACE ***FLORA COLOSSI,*** WHO CAME TO EARTH TO AGGRESSIVELY COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT ITS INHABITANTS.

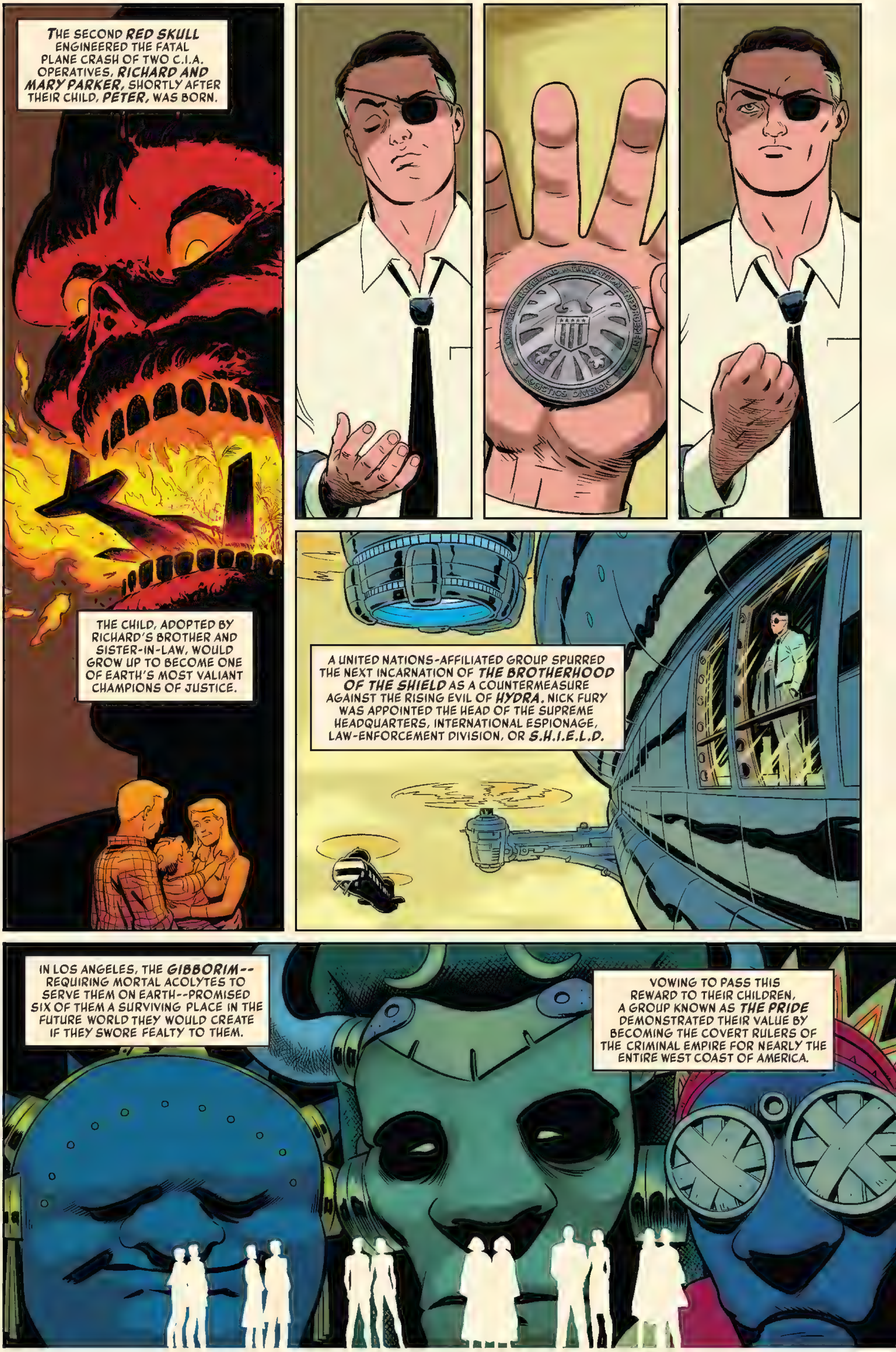
CALLING ITSELF ***GROOT,*** ITS ABILITY TO CONTROL PLANT LIFE NEARLY DESTROYED A TOWN BEFORE IT WAS STOPPED.

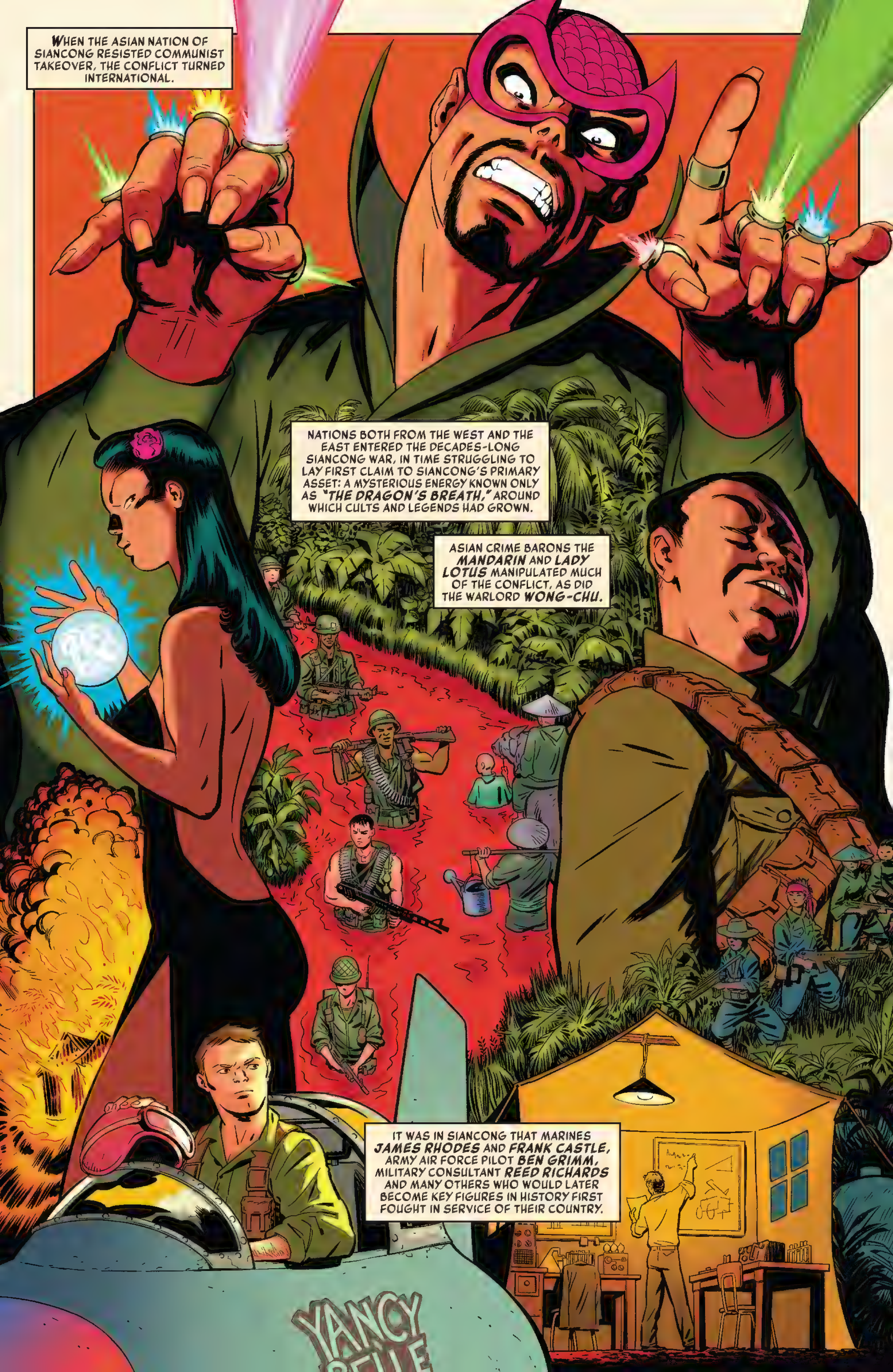


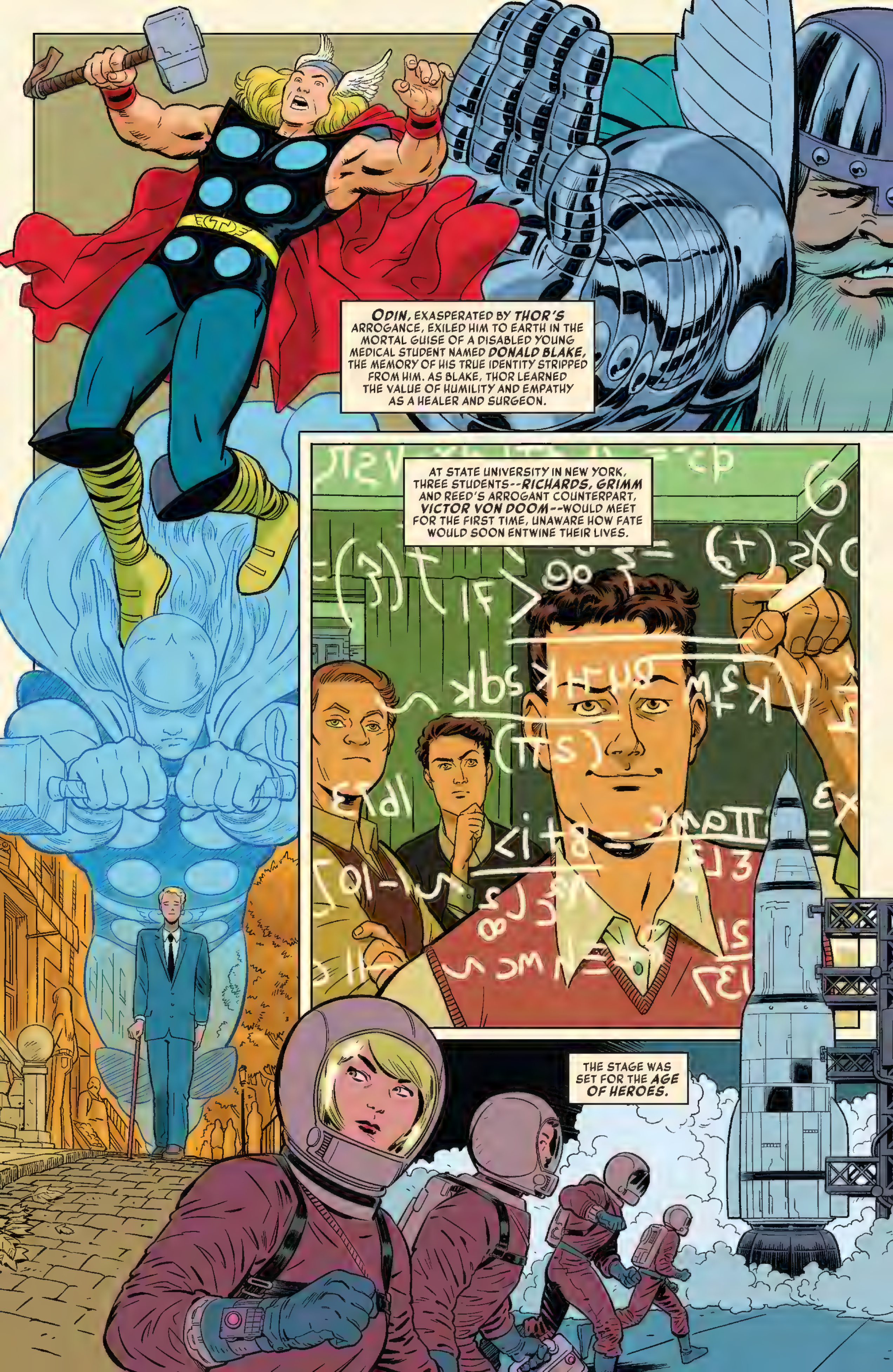
DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE, THE MOST PRIZED OF THE ANCIENT ONE'S STUDENTS, SET UP RESIDENCE AT 177A BLEECKER STREET IN NEW YORK'S GREENWICH VILLAGE.

AT FIRST DEALING WITH MINOR MAGICAL MENACES, HE WOULD SOON BE INTRODUCED TO MYSTERIES OF THE COSMOS PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN BY MORTAL HUMANS.

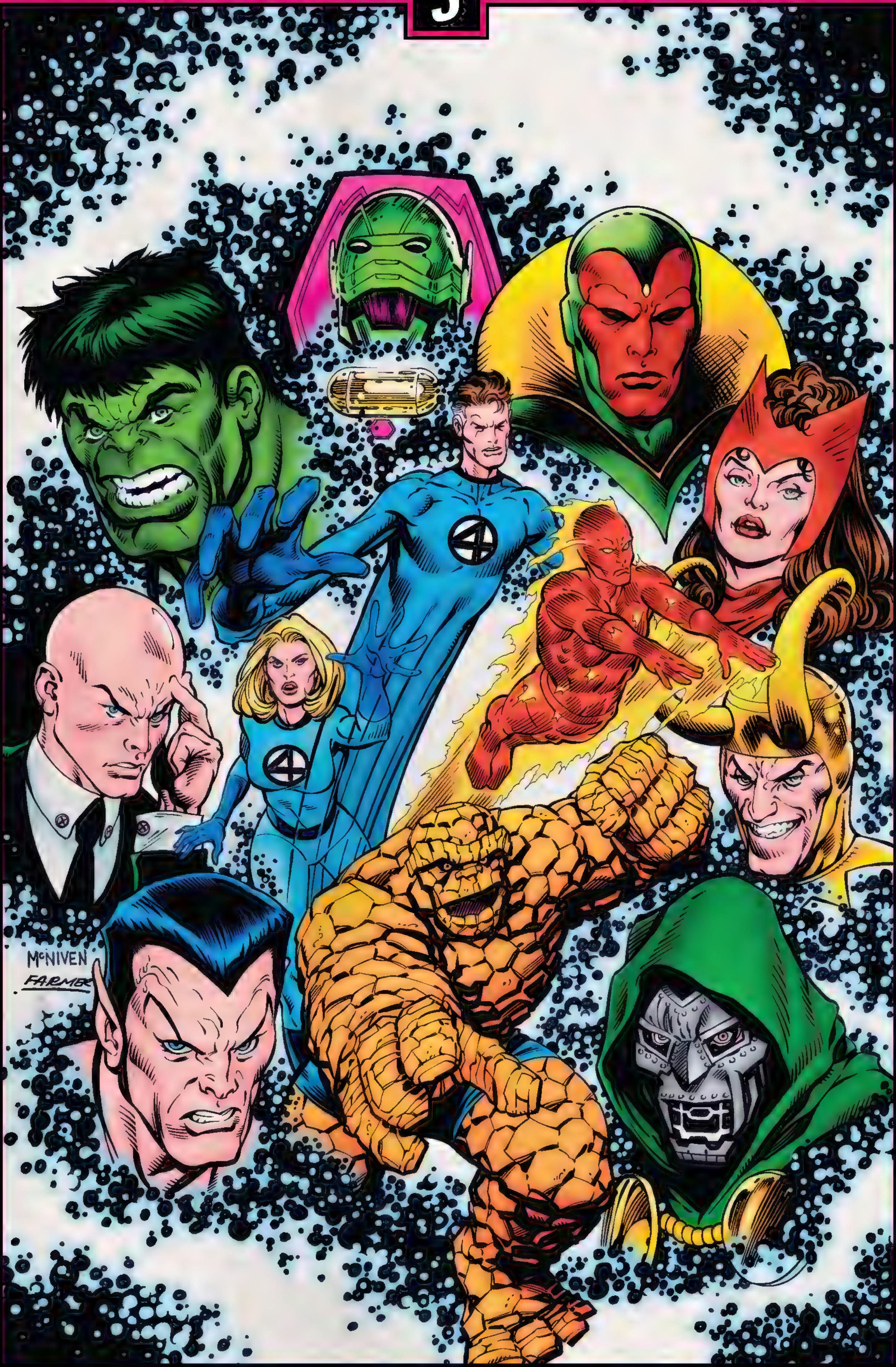

ANDRE THORTON, BETTER KNOWN AS *THE PROFESSOR*, USED MISTER SINISTER'S ABANDONED WORK TO ATTEMPT TO CREATE SUPER-POWERED WARRIORS OF HIS OWN. *WEAPON PLUS* YIELDED A GROUP OF BLACK-OPS SOLDIERS CALLED *TEAM X*.
PRE-EMINENT AMONG THEM WAS A BONE-CLAWED MUTANT WITH HEALING ABILITIES--THE CANADIAN *JAMES HOWLETT*, KNOWN NOW AS *"LOGAN"* OR *"WOLVERINE."* LOGAN, *SILVER FOX*, *MAVERICK* AND OTHERS WORKED IN SECRET BOTH FOR THE WEAPON PLUS PROGRAM AND FOR THE C.I.A.
LEAVING GOVERNMENT SERVICE AFTER ACCIDENTALLY SHOOTING A FELLOW AGENT, LOGAN WAS CAPTURED BY AN OFFSHOOT GROUP, *WEAPON X*. IN AN ATTEMPT TO REMAKE HIM AS A LIVING WEAPON, THEY INFUSED HIS SKELETON, INCLUDING HIS CLAWS, WITH THE INDESTRUCTIBLE METAL KNOWN AS *ADAMANTIUM*.
REDUCED TO A NEAR-MINDLESS STATE, LOGAN BROKE FREE OF HIS REPROGRAMMING, DESTROYED HIS TORMENTORS AND WANDERED INTO THE CANADIAN ROCKIES. HE WOULD SOON BE RECRUITED INTO CANADA'S SUPERHUMAN-ORIENTED *DEPARTMENT H*.

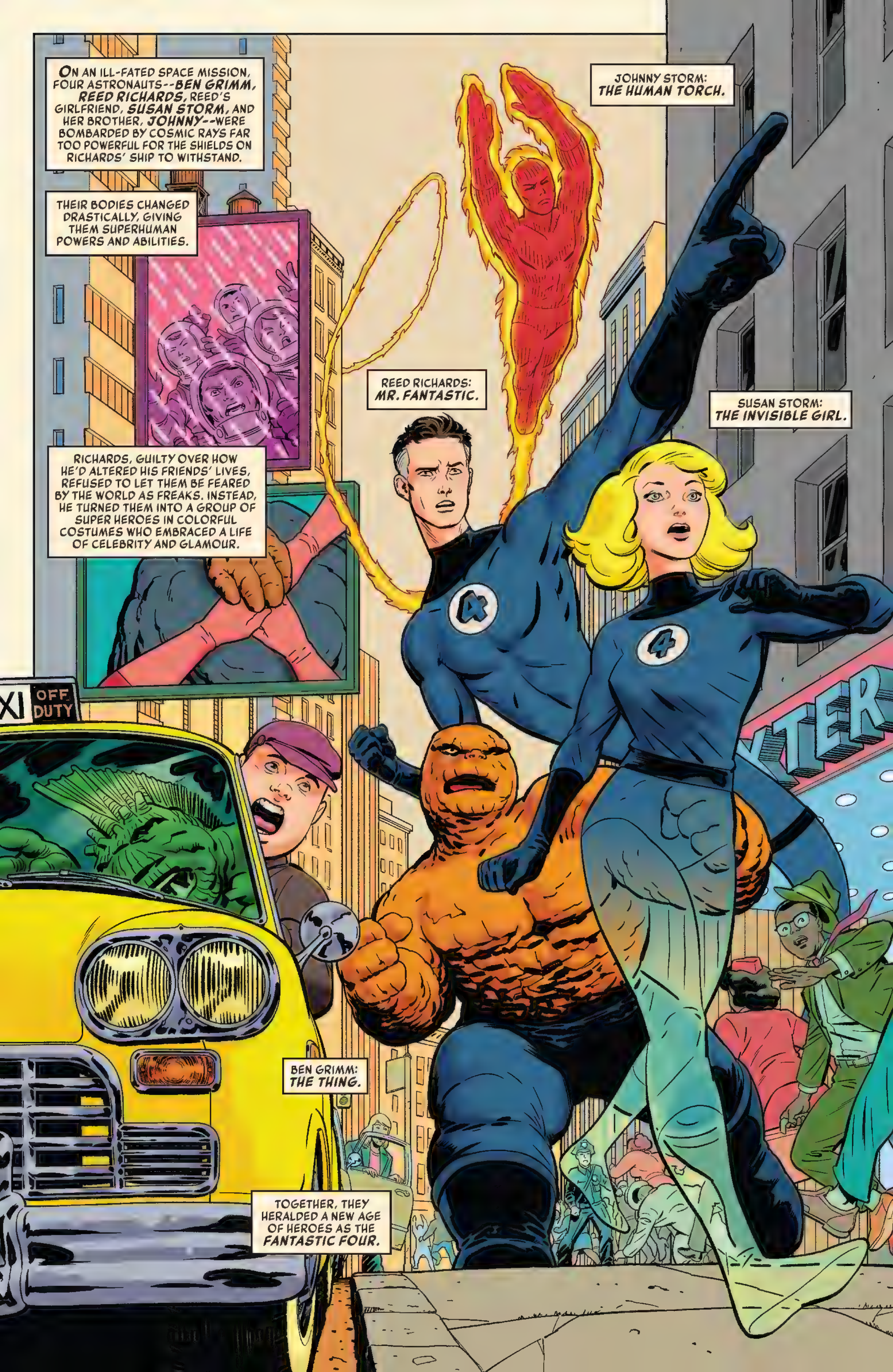

THE SECOND **RED SKULL** ENGINEERED THE FATAL PLANE CRASH OF TWO C.I.A. OPERATIVES, **RICHARD AND MARY PARKER,** SHORTLY AFTER THEIR CHILD, **PETER,** WAS BORN.
THE CHILD, ADOPTED BY RICHARD'S BROTHER AND SISTER-IN-LAW, WOULD GROW UP TO BECOME ONE OF EARTH'S MOST VALIANT CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE.
STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTERVENTION ENFORCEMENT LOGISTICS DIVISION
A UNITED NATIONS-AFFILIATED GROUP SPURRED THE NEXT INCARNATION OF **THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE SHIELD** AS A COUNTERMEASURE AGAINST THE RISING EVIL OF **HYDRA.** NICK FURY WAS APPOINTED THE HEAD OF THE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE, LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION, OR **S.H.I.E.L.D.**
IN LOS ANGELES, THE **GIBBORIM**--REQUIRING MORTAL ACOLYTES TO SERVE THEM ON EARTH--PROMISED SIX OF THEM A SURVIVING PLACE IN THE FUTURE WORLD THEY WOULD CREATE IF THEY SWORE FEALTY TO THEM.
VOWING TO PASS THIS REWARD TO THEIR CHILDREN, A GROUP KNOWN AS **THE PRIDE** DEMONSTRATED THEIR VALUE BY BECOMING THE COVERT RULERS OF THE CRIMINAL EMPIRE FOR NEARLY THE ENTIRE WEST COAST OF AMERICA.

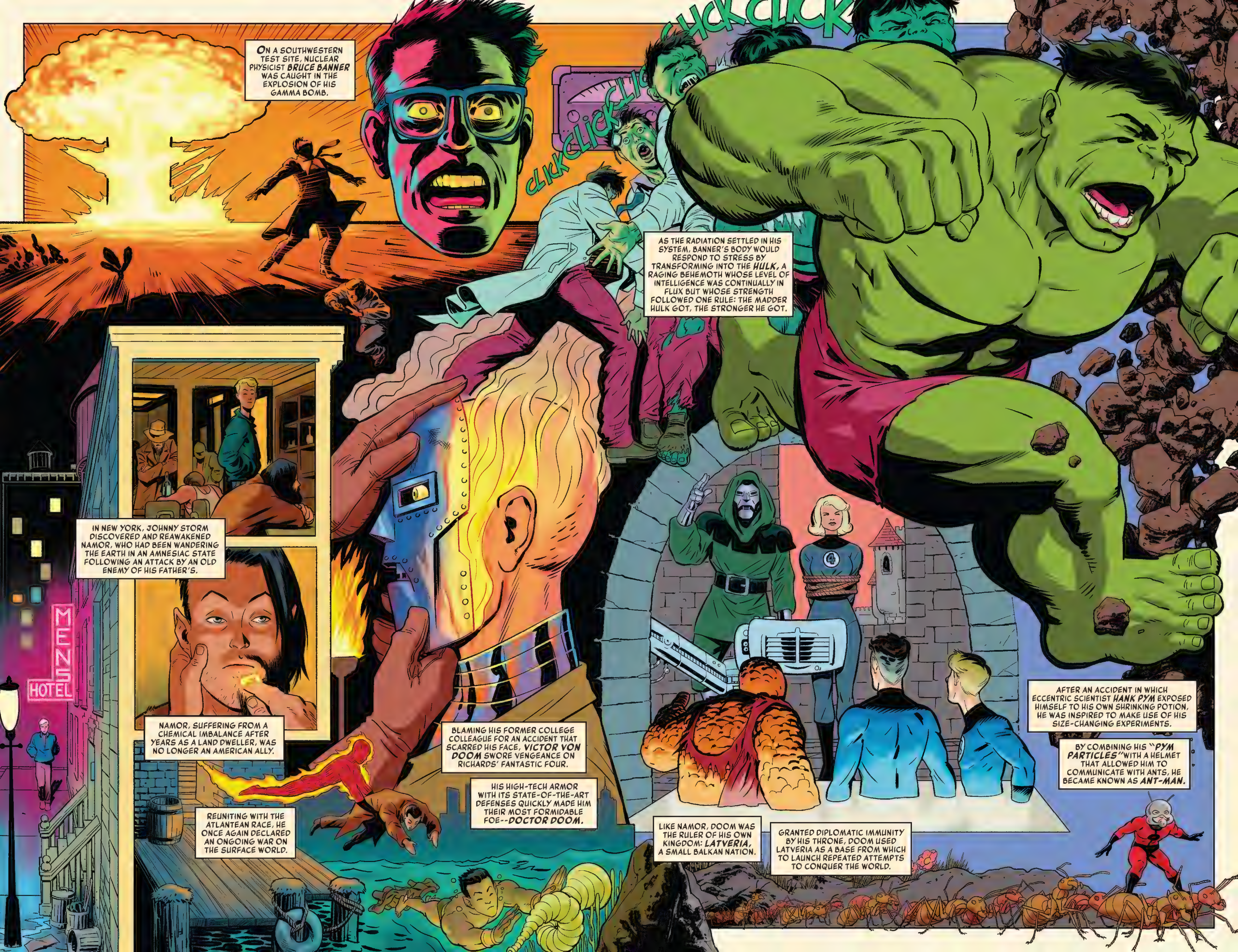

WHEN THE ASIAN NATION OF SIANCONG RESISTED COMMUNIST TAKEOVER, THE CONFLICT TURNED INTERNATIONAL.
NATIONS BOTH FROM THE WEST AND THE EAST ENTERED THE DECADES-LONG SIANCONG WAR, IN TIME STRUGGLING TO LAY FIRST CLAIM TO SIANCONG'S PRIMARY ASSET: A MYSTERIOUS ENERGY KNOWN ONLY AS ***"THE DRAGON'S BREATH,"*** AROUND WHICH CULTS AND LEGENDS HAD GROWN.
ASIAN CRIME BARONS THE ***MANDARIN*** AND ***LADY LOTUS*** MANIPULATED MUCH OF THE CONFLICT, AS DID THE WARLORD ***WONG-CHU***.
IT WAS IN SIANCONG THAT MARINES ***JAMES RHODES*** AND ***FRANK CASTLE***, ARMY AIR FORCE PILOT ***BEN GRIMM***, MILITARY CONSULTANT ***REED RICHARDS*** AND MANY OTHERS WHO WOULD LATER BECOME KEY FIGURES IN HISTORY FIRST FOUGHT IN SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY.
YANCY

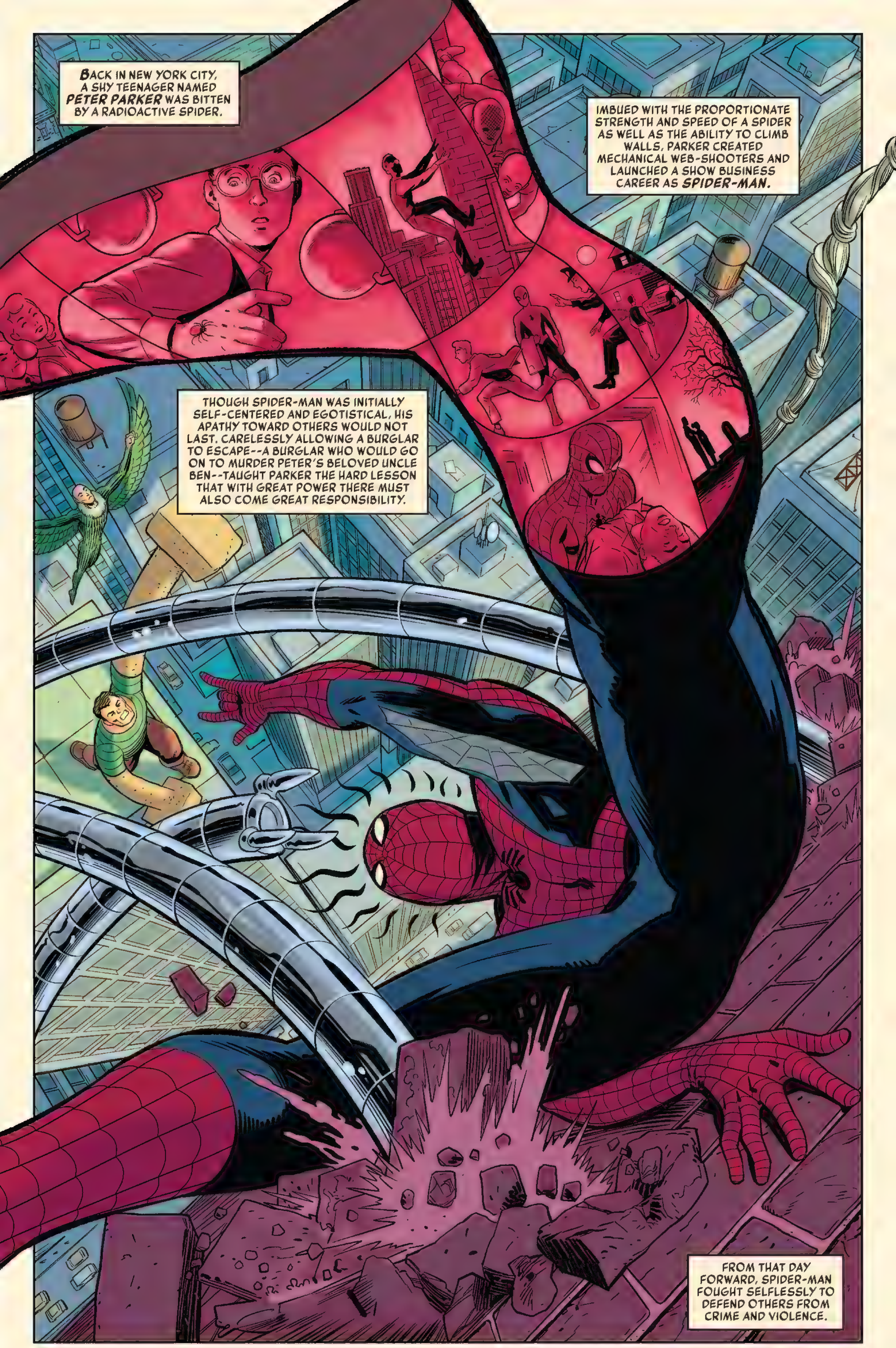

ODIN, EXASPERATED BY THOR'S ARROGANCE, EXILED HIM TO EARTH IN THE MORTAL GUISE OF A DISABLED YOUNG MEDICAL STUDENT NAMED DONALD BLAKE, THE MEMORY OF HIS TRUE IDENTITY STRIPPED FROM HIM. AS BLAKE, THOR LEARNED THE VALUE OF HUMILITY AND EMPATHY AS A HEALER AND SURGEON.
AT STATE UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK, THREE STUDENTS--RICHARDS, GRIMM AND REED'S ARROGANT COUNTERPART, VICTOR VON DOOM--WOULD MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME, UNAWARE HOW FATE WOULD SOON ENTWINE THEIR LIVES.
THE STAGE WAS SET FOR THE AGE OF HEROES.

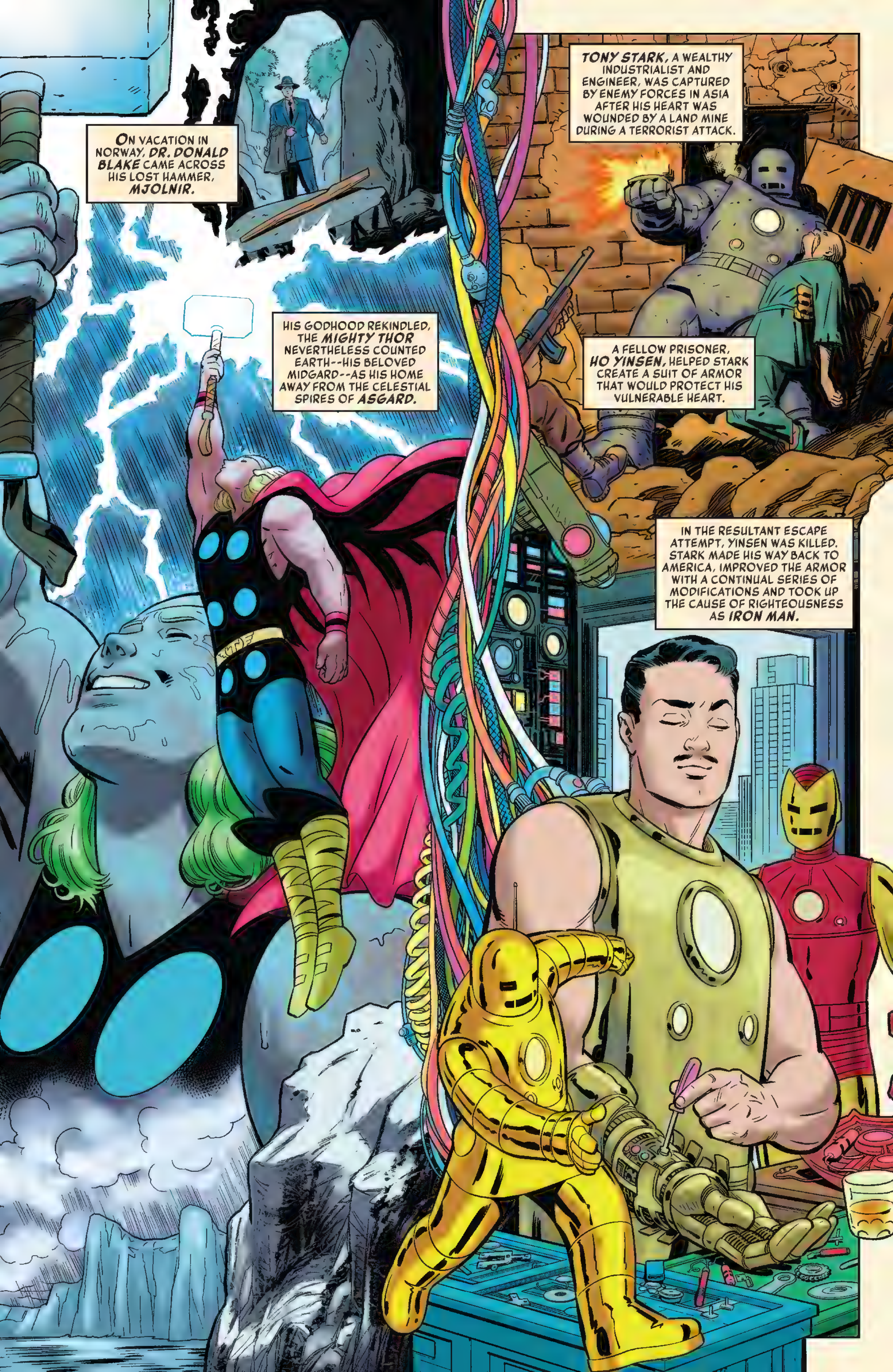
3

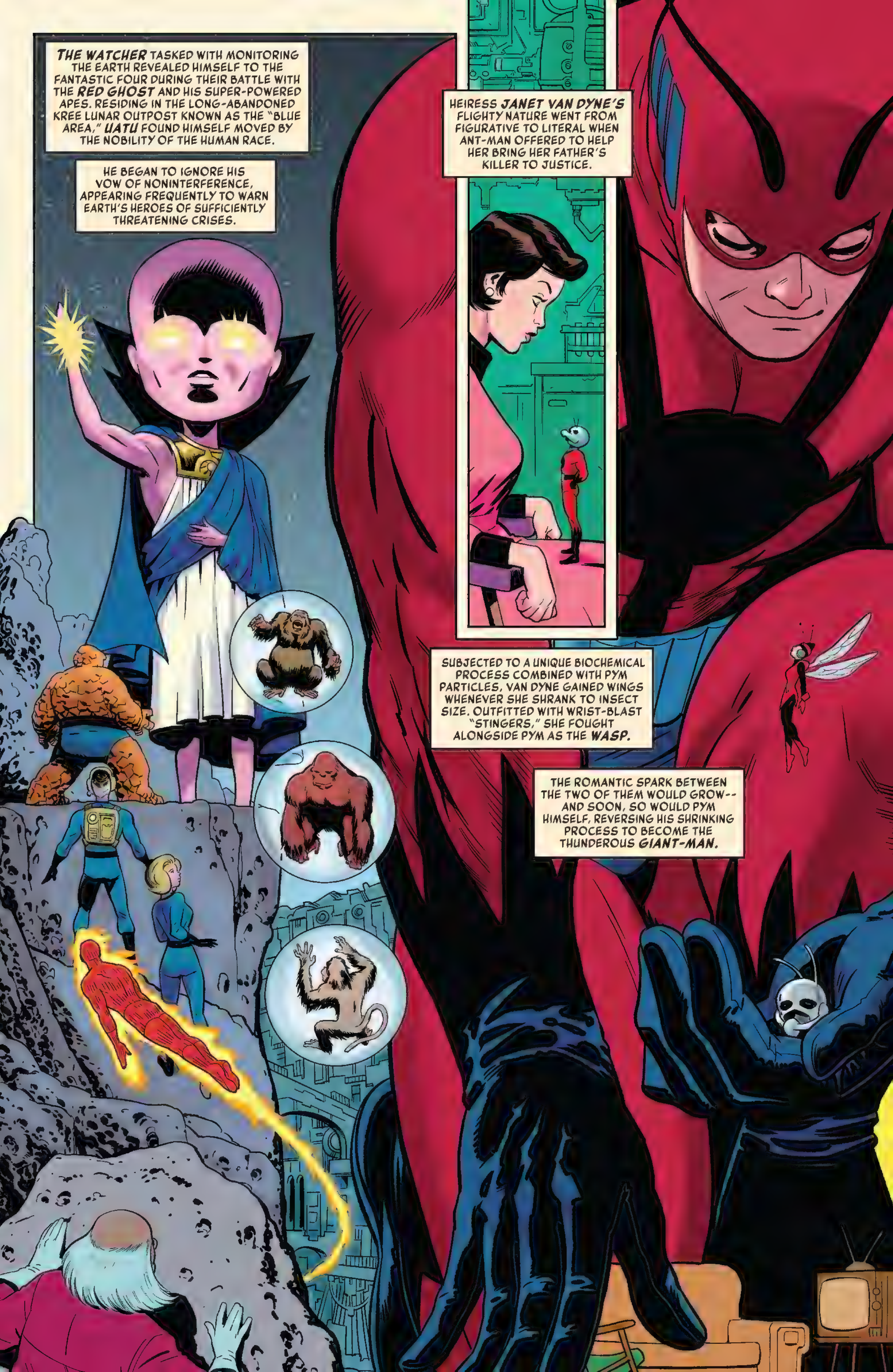

McNIVEN
FARMER

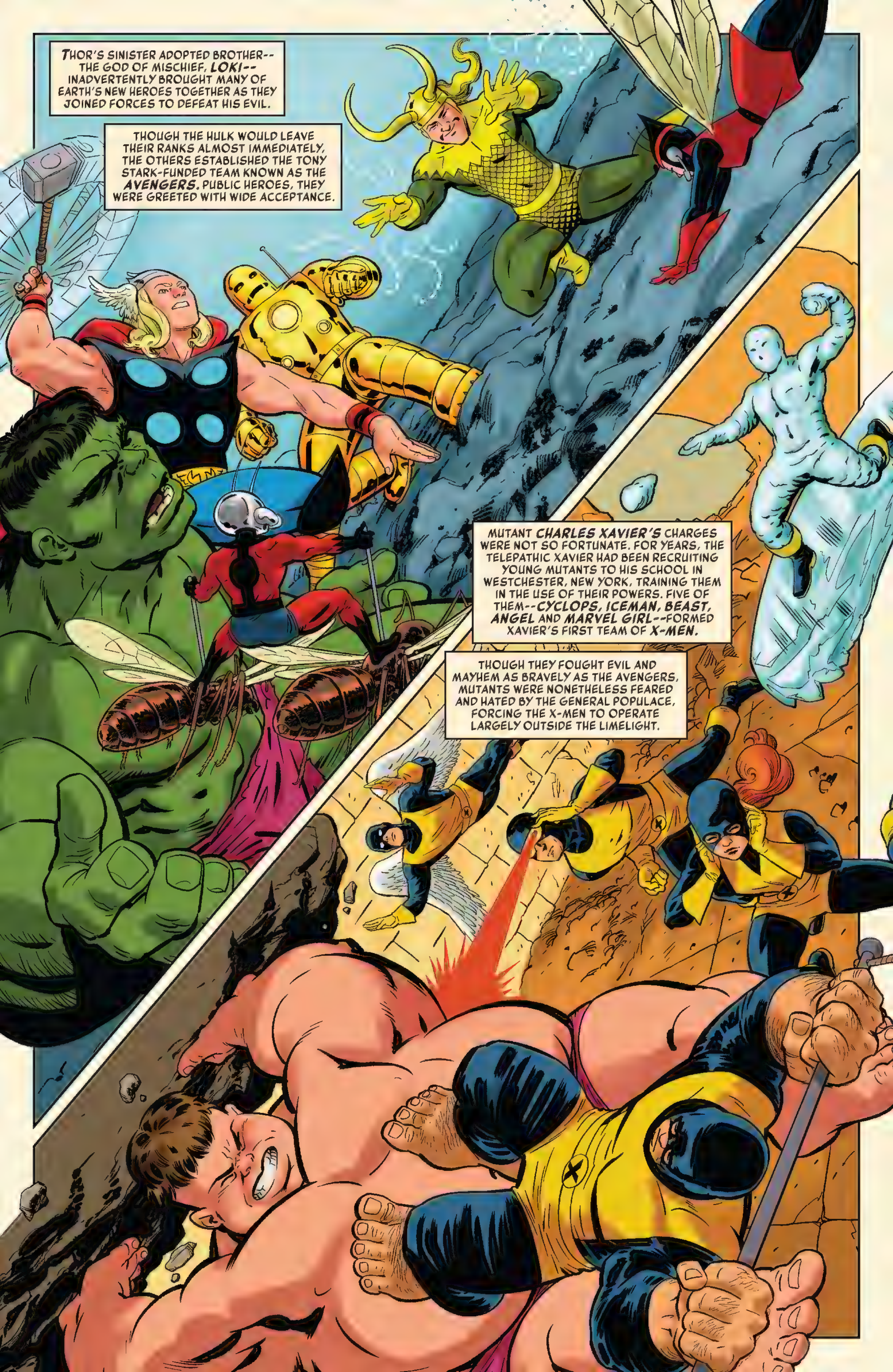

ON AN ILL-FATED SPACE MISSION, FOUR ASTRONAUTS--**BEN GRIMM, REED RICHARDS,** REED'S GIRLFRIEND, **SUSAN STORM,** AND HER BROTHER, **JOHNNY**--WERE BOMBARDED BY COSMIC RAYS FAR TOO POWERFUL FOR THE SHIELDS ON RICHARDS' SHIP TO WITHSTAND.
THEIR BODIES CHANGED DRASTICALLY, GIVING THEM SUPERHUMAN POWERS AND ABILITIES.
JOHNNY STORM: ***THE HUMAN TORCH.***
REED RICHARDS: ***MR. FANTASTIC.***
SUSAN STORM: ***THE INVISIBLE GIRL.***
RICHARDS, GUILTY OVER HOW HE'D ALTERED HIS FRIENDS' LIVES, REFUSED TO LET THEM BE FEARED BY THE WORLD AS FREAKS. INSTEAD, HE TURNED THEM INTO A GROUP OF SUPER HEROES IN COLORFUL COSTUMES WHO EMBRACED A LIFE OF CELEBRITY AND GLAMOUR.
XI OFF DUTY
XTER
BEN GRIMM: ***THE THING.***
TOGETHER, THEY HERALDED A NEW AGE OF HEROES AS THE ***FANTASTIC FOUR.***

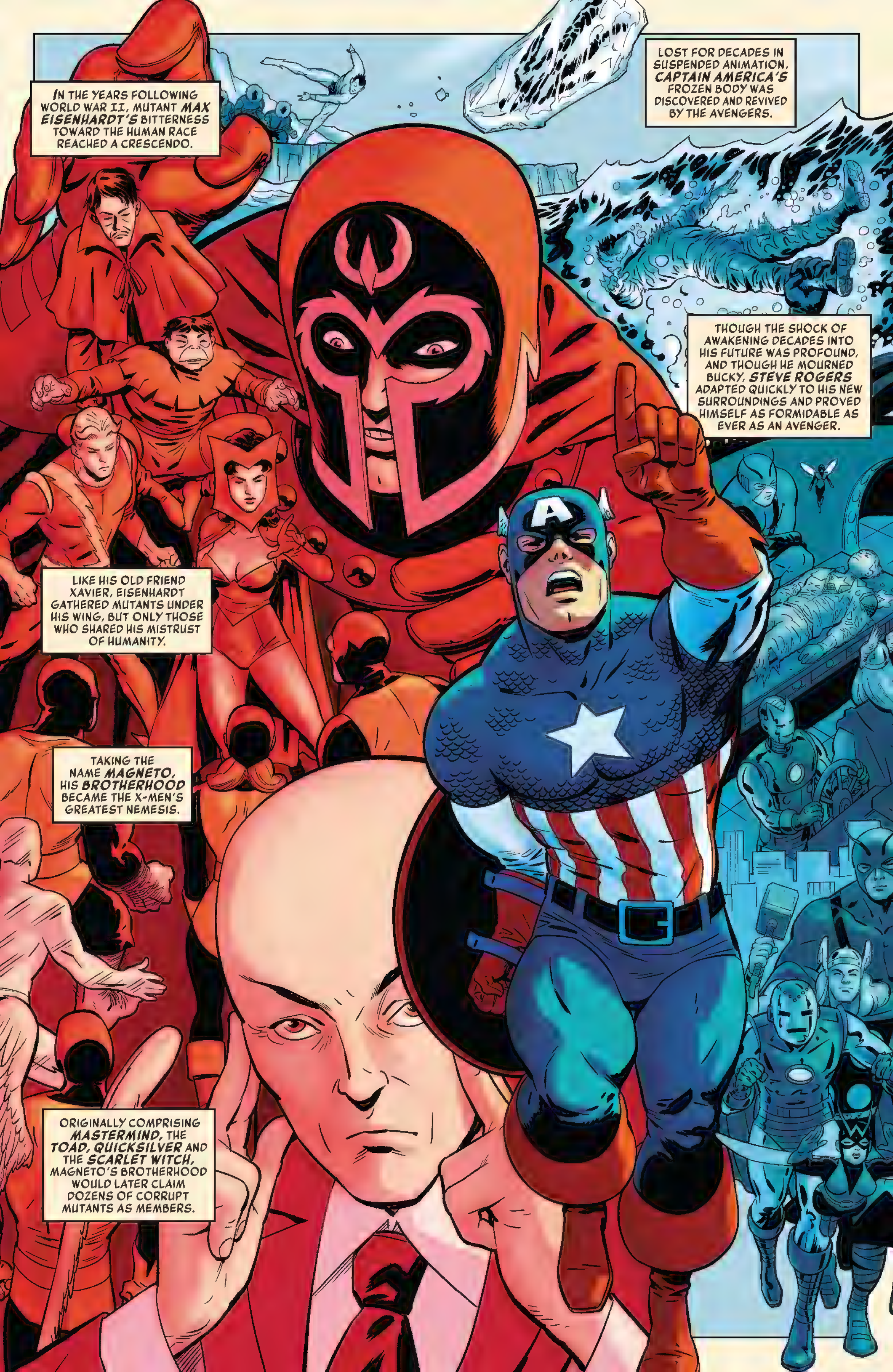

ON A SOUTHWESTERN TEST SITE, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST **BRUCE BANNER** WAS CAUGHT IN THE EXPLOSION OF HIS GAMMA BOMB.
CLICK CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK
AS THE RADIATION SETTLED IN HIS SYSTEM, BANNER'S BODY WOULD RESPOND TO STRESS BY TRANSFORMING INTO THE **HULK,** A RAGING BEHEMOTH WHOSE LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE WAS CONTINUALLY IN FLUX BUT WHOSE STRENGTH FOLLOWED ONE RULE: THE MADDER HULK GOT, THE STRONGER HE GOT.
IN NEW YORK, JOHNNY STORM DISCOVERED AND REAWAKENED NAMOR, WHO HAD BEEN WANDERING THE EARTH IN AN AMNESIAC STATE FOLLOWING AN ATTACK BY AN OLD ENEMY OF HIS FATHER'S.
MENS HOTEL
NAMOR, SUFFERING FROM A CHEMICAL IMBALANCE AFTER YEARS AS A LAND DWELLER, WAS NO LONGER AN AMERICAN ALLY.
REUNITING WITH THE ATLANTEAN RACE, HE ONCE AGAIN DECLARED AN ONGOING WAR ON THE SURFACE WORLD.
BLAMING HIS FORMER COLLEGE COLLEAGUE FOR AN ACCIDENT THAT SCARRED HIS FACE, **VICTOR VON DOOM** SWORE VENGEANCE ON RICHARDS' FANTASTIC FOUR.
HIS HIGH-TECH ARMOR WITH ITS STATE-OF-THE-ART DEFENSES QUICKLY MADE HIM THEIR MOST FORMIDABLE FOE--**DOCTOR DOOM.**
4
LIKE NAMOR, DOOM WAS THE RULER OF HIS OWN KINGDOM: **LATVERIA,** A SMALL BALKAN NATION.
GRANTED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY BY HIS THRONE, DOOM USED LATVERIA AS A BASE FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO CONQUER THE WORLD.
AFTER AN ACCIDENT IN WHICH ECCENTRIC SCIENTIST **HANK PYM** EXPOSED HIMSELF TO HIS OWN SHRINKING POTION, HE WAS INSPIRED TO MAKE USE OF HIS SIZE-CHANGING EXPERIMENTS.
BY COMBINING HIS **"PYM PARTICLES"** WITH A HELMET THAT ALLOWED HIM TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANTS, HE BECAME KNOWN AS **ANT-MAN.**

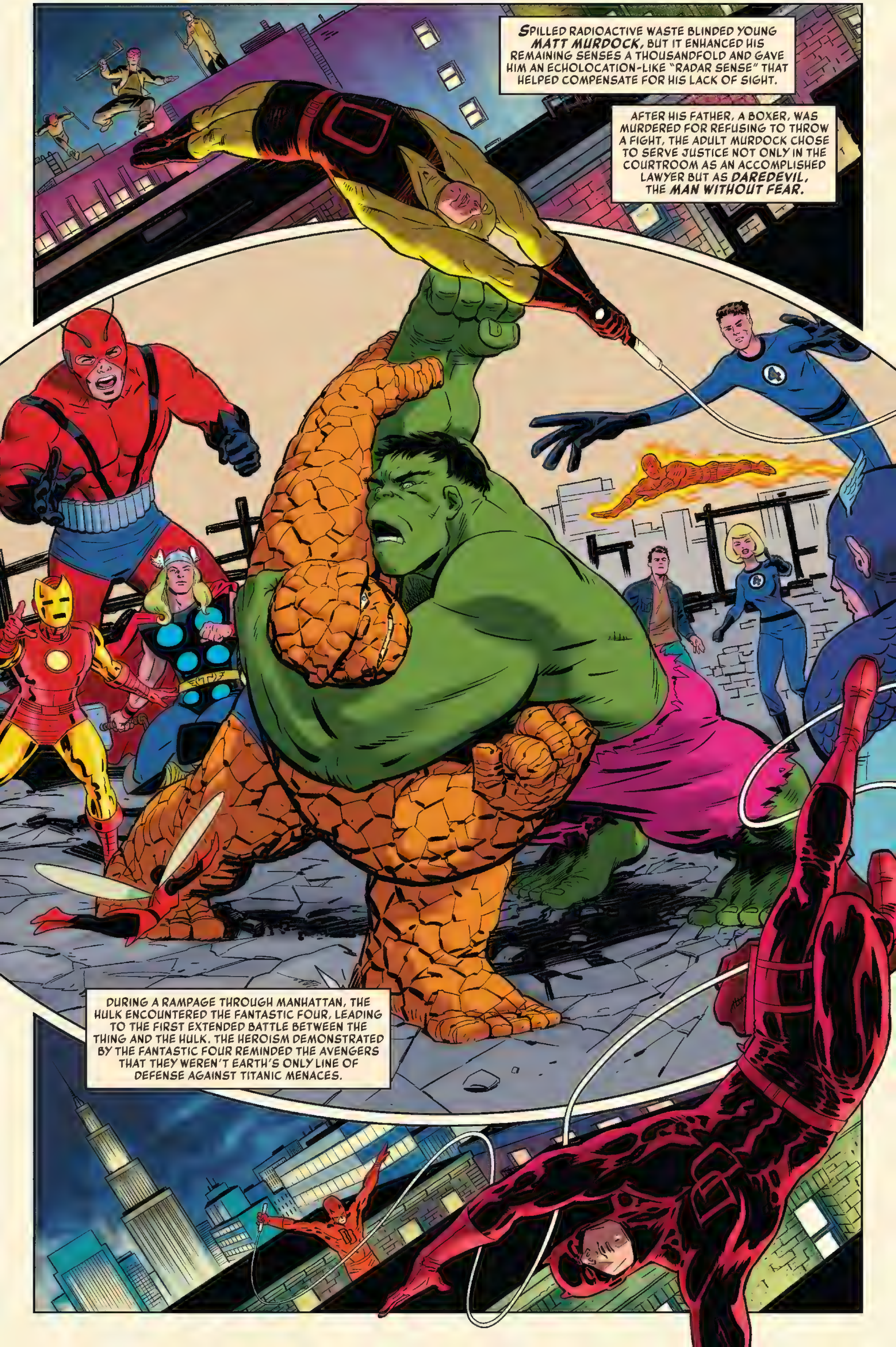

BACK IN NEW YORK CITY, A SHY TEENAGER NAMED **PETER PARKER** WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER.
IMBUED WITH THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND SPEED OF A SPIDER AS WELL AS THE ABILITY TO CLIMB WALLS, PARKER CREATED MECHANICAL WEB-SHOOTERS AND LAUNCHED A SHOW BUSINESS CAREER AS ***SPIDER-MAN.***
THOUGH SPIDER-MAN WAS INITIALLY SELF-CENTERED AND EGOTISTICAL, HIS APATHY TOWARD OTHERS WOULD NOT LAST. CARELESSLY ALLOWING A BURGLAR TO ESCAPE--A BURGLAR WHO WOULD GO ON TO MURDER PETER'S BELOVED UNCLE BEN--TAUGHT PARKER THE HARD LESSON THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.
FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, SPIDER-MAN FOUGHT SELFLESSLY TO DEFEND OTHERS FROM CRIME AND VIOLENCE.


ON VACATION IN NORWAY, DR. DONALD BLAKE CAME ACROSS HIS LOST HAMMER, MJOLNIR.
HIS GODHOOD REKINDLED, THE MIGHTY THOR NEVERTHELESS COUNTED EARTH--HIS BELOVED MIDGARD--AS HIS HOME AWAY FROM THE CELESTIAL SPIRES OF ASGARD.
TONY STARK, A WEALTHY INDUSTRIALIST AND ENGINEER, WAS CAPTURED BY ENEMY FORCES IN ASIA AFTER HIS HEART WAS WOUNDED BY A LAND MINE DURING A TERRORIST ATTACK.
A FELLOW PRISONER, HO YINSEN, HELPED STARK CREATE A SUIT OF ARMOR THAT WOULD PROTECT HIS VULNERABLE HEART.
IN THE RESULTANT ESCAPE ATTEMPT, YINSEN WAS KILLED. STARK MADE HIS WAY BACK TO AMERICA, IMPROVED THE ARMOR WITH A CONTINUAL SERIES OF MODIFICATIONS AND TOOK UP THE CAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AS IRON MAN.


THE WATCHER TASKED WITH MONITORING THE EARTH REVEALED HIMSELF TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR DURING THEIR BATTLE WITH THE **RED GHOST** AND HIS SUPER-POWERED APES. RESIDING IN THE LONG-ABANDONED KREE LUNAR OUTPOST KNOWN AS THE "BLUE AREA," **UATU** FOUND HIMSELF MOVED BY THE NOBILITY OF THE HUMAN RACE.
HE BEGAN TO IGNORE HIS VOW OF NONINTERFERENCE, APPEARING FREQUENTLY TO WARN EARTH'S HEROES OF SUFFICIENTLY THREATENING CRISES.
HEIRESS **JANET VAN DYNE'S** FLIGHTY NATURE WENT FROM FIGURATIVE TO LITERAL WHEN ANT-MAN OFFERED TO HELP HER BRING HER FATHER'S KILLER TO JUSTICE.
SUBJECTED TO A UNIQUE BIOCHEMICAL PROCESS COMBINED WITH PYM PARTICLES, VAN DYNE GAINED WINGS WHENEVER SHE SHRANK TO INSECT SIZE. OUTFITTED WITH WRIST-BLAST "STINGERS," SHE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE PYM AS THE **WASP.**
THE ROMANTIC SPARK BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM WOULD GROW-- AND SOON, SO WOULD PYM HIMSELF, REVERSING HIS SHRINKING PROCESS TO BECOME THE THUNDEROUS **GIANT-MAN.**


THOR'S SINISTER ADOPTED BROTHER--THE GOD OF MISCHIEF, **LOKI**--INADVERTENTLY BROUGHT MANY OF EARTH'S NEW HEROES TOGETHER AS THEY JOINED FORCES TO DEFEAT HIS EVIL.
THOUGH THE HULK WOULD LEAVE THEIR RANKS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, THE OTHERS ESTABLISHED THE TONY STARK-FUNDED TEAM KNOWN AS THE **AVENGERS.** PUBLIC HEROES, THEY WERE GREETED WITH WIDE ACCEPTANCE.
MUTANT **CHARLES XAVIER'S** CHARGES WERE NOT SO FORTUNATE. FOR YEARS, THE TELEPATHIC XAVIER HAD BEEN RECRUITING YOUNG MUTANTS TO HIS SCHOOL IN WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK, TRAINING THEM IN THE USE OF THEIR POWERS. FIVE OF THEM--**CYCLOPS, ICEMAN, BEAST, ANGEL** AND **MARVEL GIRL**--FORMED XAVIER'S FIRST TEAM OF **X-MEN.**
THOUGH THEY FOUGHT EVIL AND MAYHEM AS BRAVELY AS THE AVENGERS, MUTANTS WERE NONETHELESS FEARED AND HATED BY THE GENERAL POPULACE, FORCING THE X-MEN TO OPERATE LARGELY OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT.

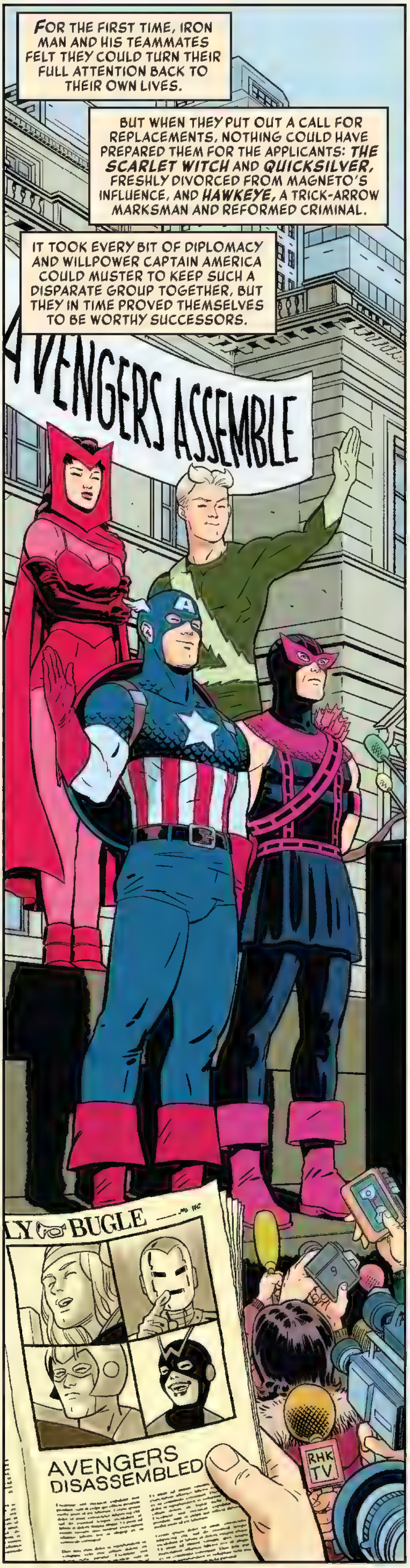

IN THE YEARS FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, MUTANT ***MAX EISENHARDT'S*** BITTERNESS TOWARD THE HUMAN RACE REACHED A CRESCENDO.
LIKE HIS OLD FRIEND XAVIER, EISENHARDT GATHERED MUTANTS UNDER HIS WING, BUT ONLY THOSE WHO SHARED HIS MISTRUST OF HUMANITY.
TAKING THE NAME ***MAGNETO***, HIS ***BROTHERHOOD*** BECAME THE X-MEN'S GREATEST NEMESIS.
ORIGINALLY COMPRISING ***MASTERMIND***, THE ***TOAD***, ***QUICKSILVER*** AND THE ***SCARLET WITCH***, MAGNETO'S BROTHERHOOD WOULD LATER CLAIM DOZENS OF CORRUPT MUTANTS AS MEMBERS.
LOST FOR DECADES IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION, ***CAPTAIN AMERICA'S*** FROZEN BODY WAS DISCOVERED AND REVIVED BY THE AVENGERS.
THOUGH THE SHOCK OF AWAKENING DECADES INTO HIS FUTURE WAS PROFOUND, AND THOUGH HE MOURNED BUCKY, ***STEVE ROGERS*** ADAPTED QUICKLY TO HIS NEW SURROUNDINGS AND PROVED HIMSELF AS FORMIDABLE AS EVER AS AN AVENGER.



SPILLED RADIOACTIVE WASTE BLINDED YOUNG ***MATT MURDOCK,*** BUT IT ENHANCED HIS REMAINING SENSES A THOUSANDFOLD AND GAVE HIM AN ECHOLOCATION-LIKE "RADAR SENSE" THAT HELPED COMPENSATE FOR HIS LACK OF SIGHT.

AFTER HIS FATHER, A BOXER, WAS MURDERED FOR REFUSING TO THROW A FIGHT, THE ADULT MURDOCK CHOSE TO SERVE JUSTICE NOT ONLY IN THE COURTROOM AS AN ACCOMPLISHED LAWYER BUT AS ***DAREDEVIL,*** THE ***MAN WITHOUT FEAR.***

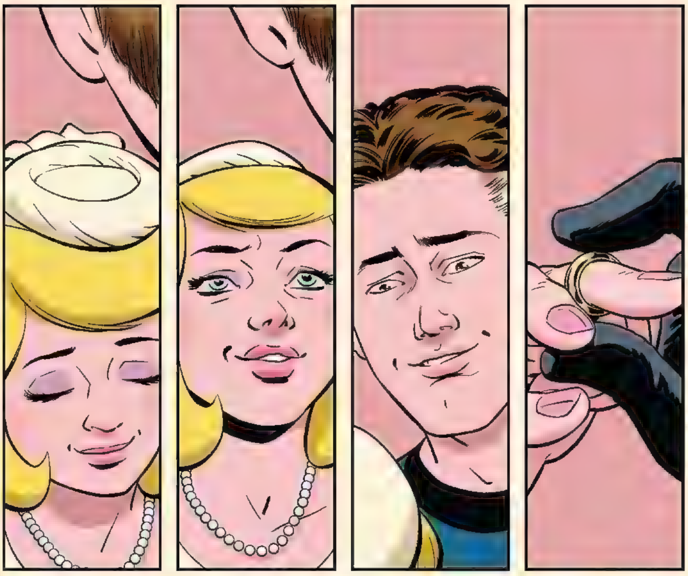
DURING A RAMPAGE THROUGH MANHATTAN, THE HULK ENCOUNTERED THE FANTASTIC FOUR, LEADING TO THE FIRST EXTENDED BATTLE BETWEEN THE THING AND THE HULK. THE HEROISM DEMONSTRATED BY THE FANTASTIC FOUR REMINDED THE AVENGERS THAT THEY WEREN'T EARTH'S ONLY LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST TITANIC MENACES.

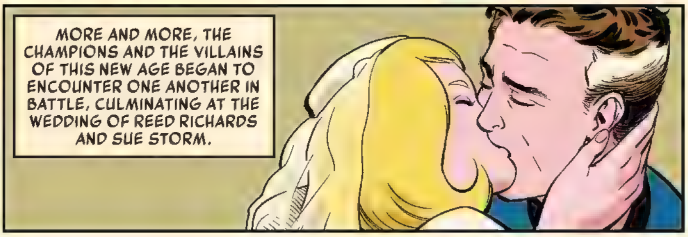


FOR THE FIRST TIME, IRON MAN AND HIS TEAMMATES FELT THEY COULD TURN THEIR FULL ATTENTION BACK TO THEIR OWN LIVES.

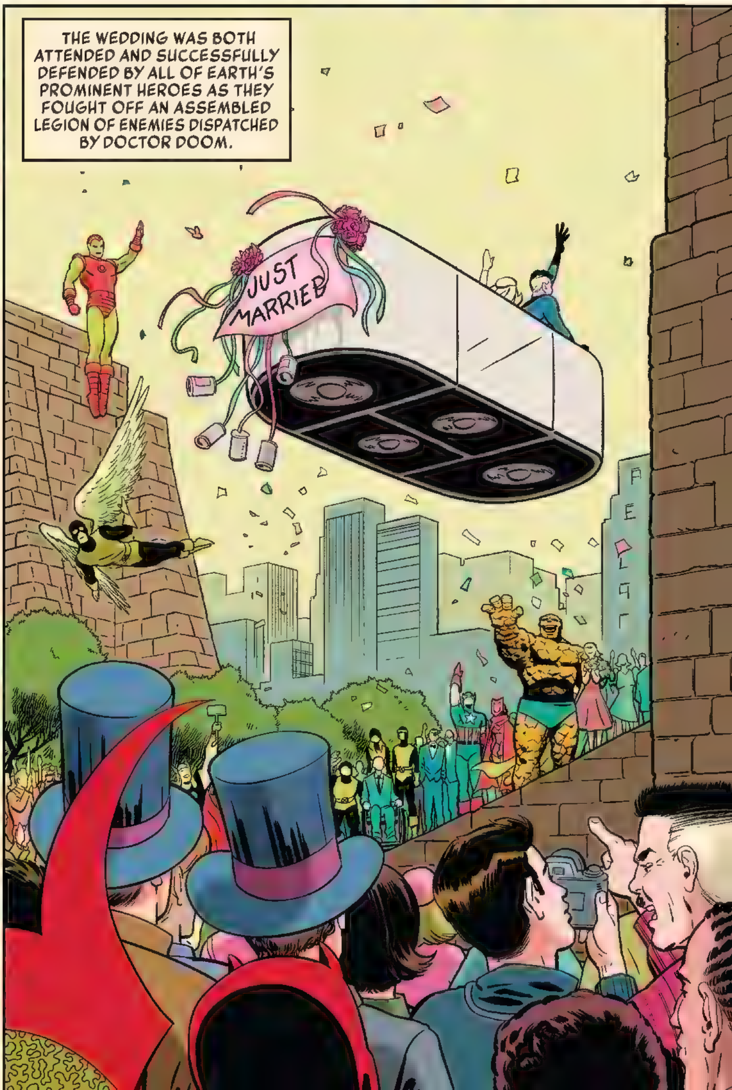
BUT WHEN THEY PUT OUT A CALL FOR REPLACEMENTS, NOTHING COULD HAVE PREPARED THEM FOR THE APPLICANTS: ***THE SCARLET WITCH*** AND ***QUICKSILVER,*** FRESHLY DIVORCED FROM MAGNETO'S INFLUENCE, AND ***HAWKEYE,*** A TRICK-ARROW MARKSMAN AND REFORMED CRIMINAL.

IT TOOK EVERY BIT OF DIPLOMACY AND WILLPOWER CAPTAIN AMERICA COULD MUSTER TO KEEP SUCH A DISPARATE GROUP TOGETHER, BUT THEY IN TIME PROVED THEMSELVES TO BE WORTHY SUCCESSORS.

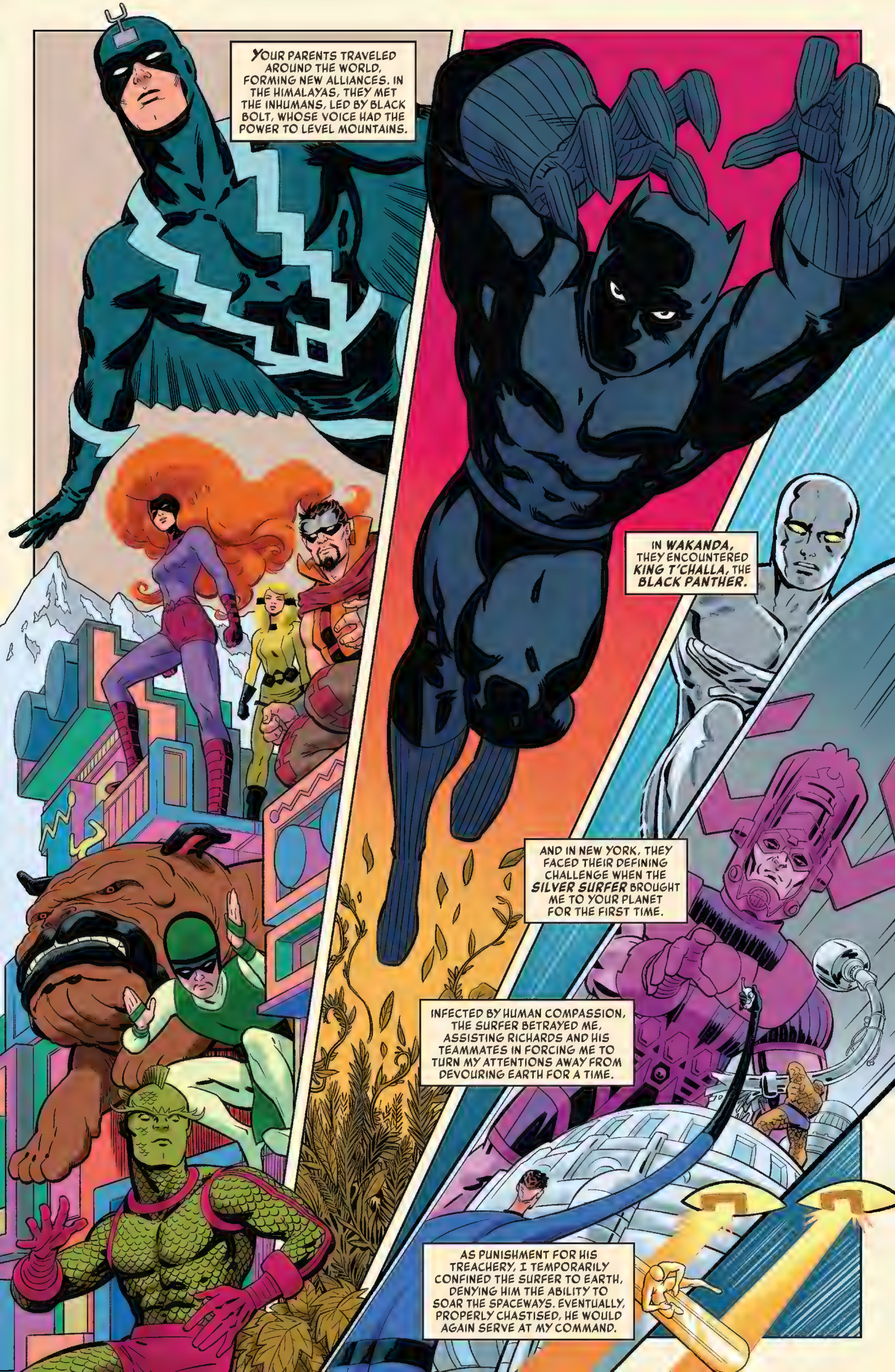


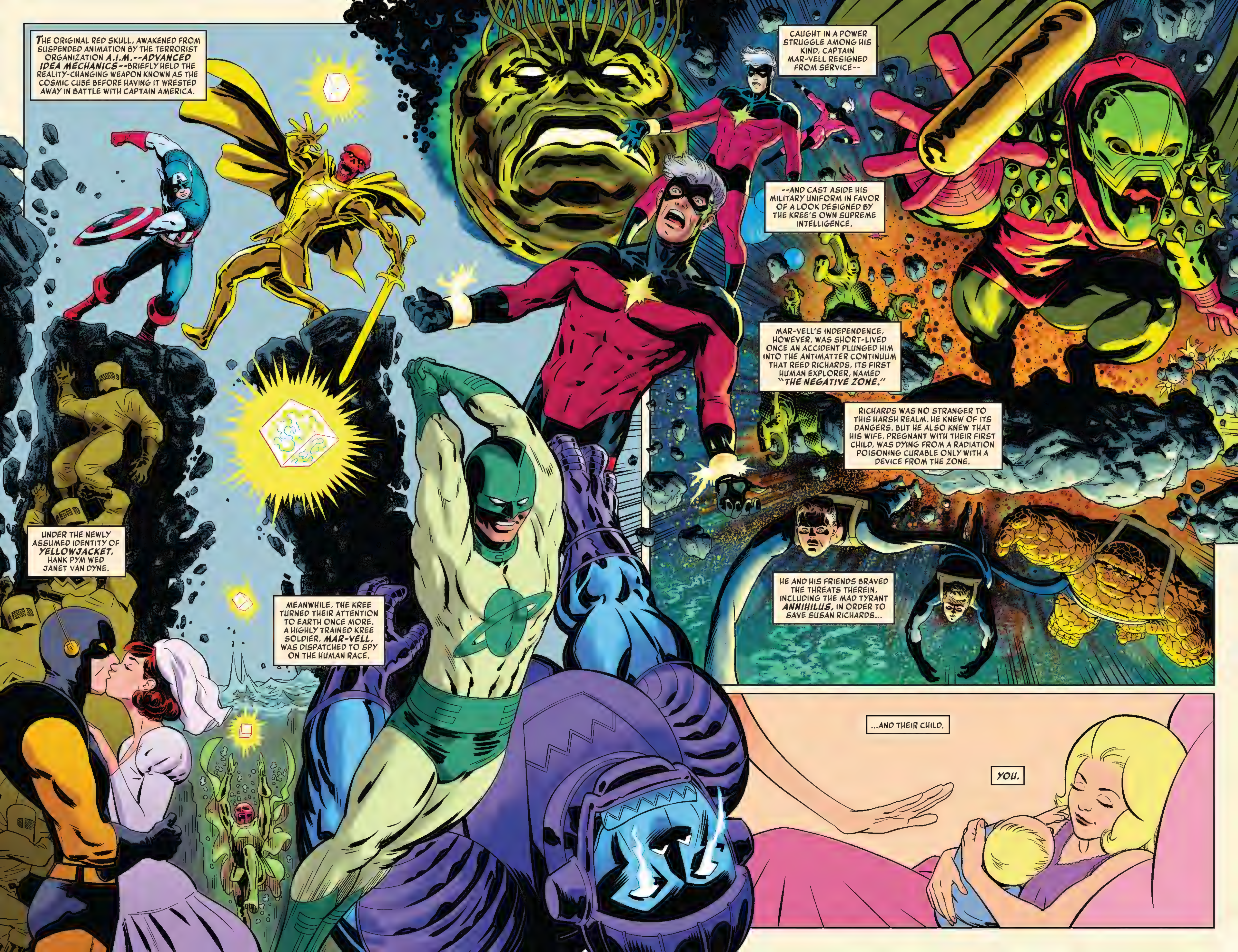


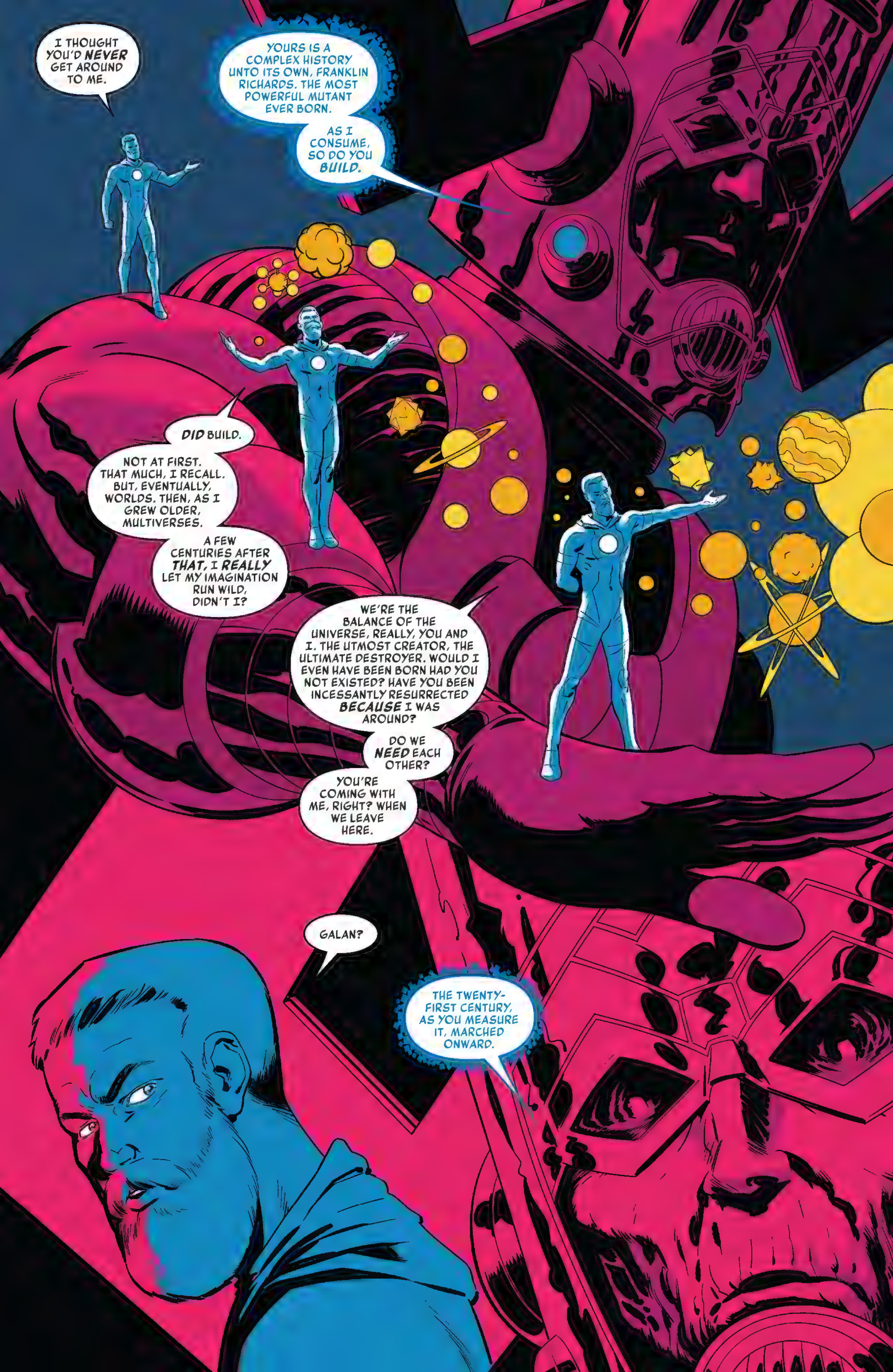
MORE AND MORE, THE CHAMPIONS AND THE VILLAINS OF THIS NEW AGE BEGAN TO ENCOUNTER ONE ANOTHER IN BATTLE, CULMINATING AT THE WEDDING OF REED RICHARDS AND SUE STORM.

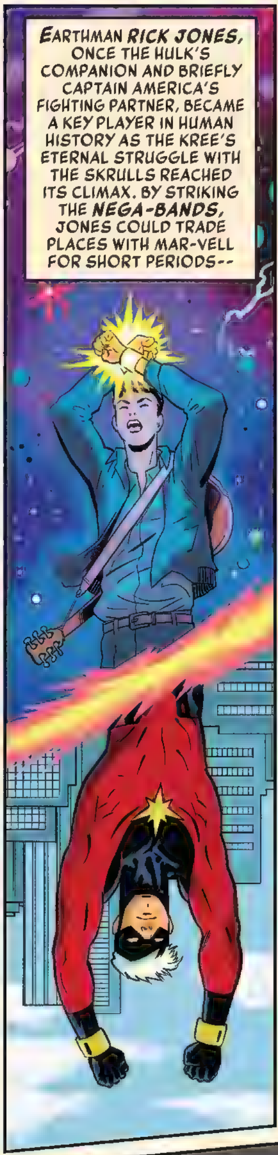


THE WEDDING WAS BOTH ATTENDED AND SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED BY ALL OF EARTH'S PROMINENT HEROES AS THEY FOUGHT OFF AN ASSEMBLED LEGION OF ENEMIES DISPATCHED BY DOCTOR DOOM.

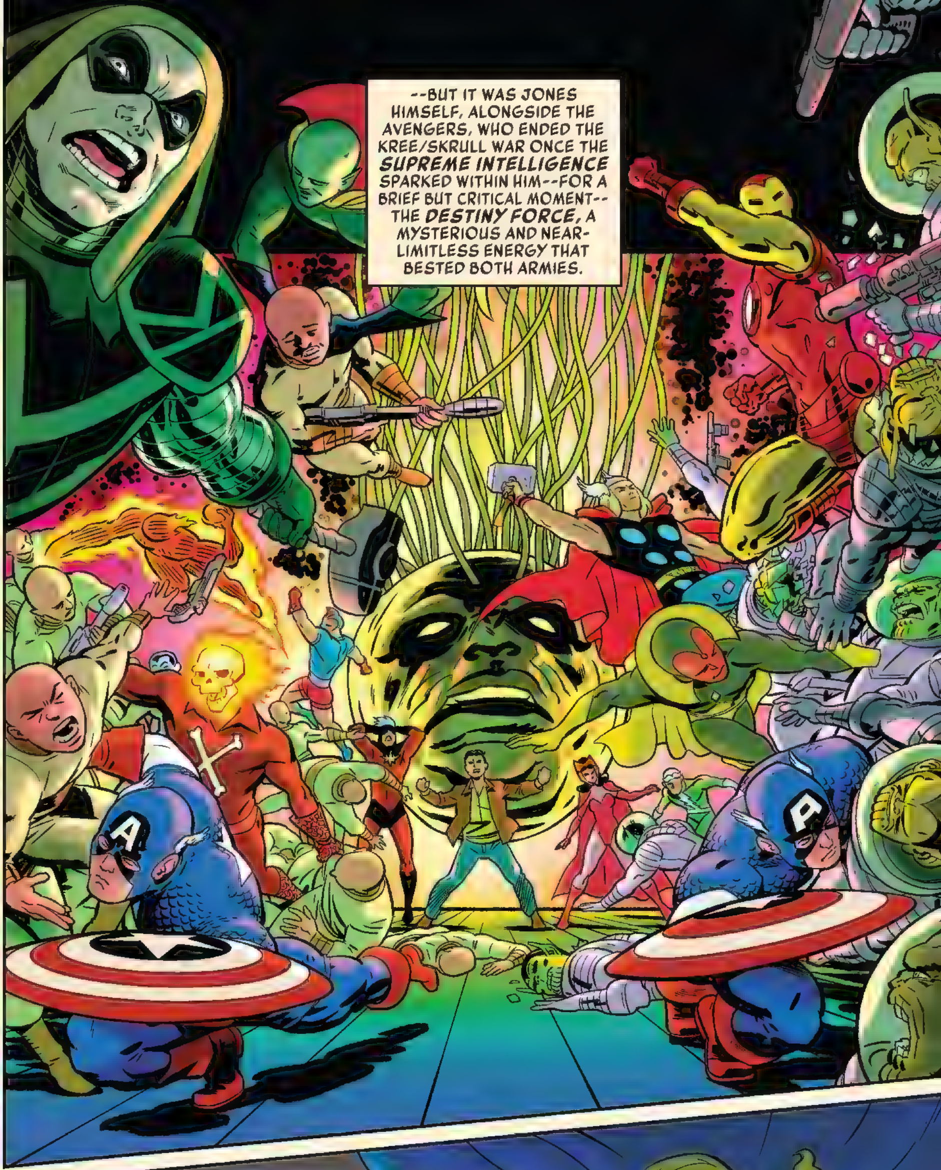

YOUR PARENTS TRAVELED AROUND THE WORLD, FORMING NEW ALLIANCES. IN THE HIMALAYAS, THEY MET THE INHUMANS, LED BY BLACK BOLT, WHOSE VOICE HAD THE POWER TO LEVEL MOUNTAINS.
IN ***WAKANDA,*** THEY ENCOUNTERED ***KING T'CHALLA,*** THE ***BLACK PANTHER.***
AND IN NEW YORK, THEY FACED THEIR DEFINING CHALLENGE WHEN THE ***SILVER SURFER*** BROUGHT ME TO YOUR PLANET FOR THE FIRST TIME.
INFECTED BY HUMAN COMPASSION, THE SURFER BETRAYED ME, ASSISTING RICHARDS AND HIS TEAMMATES IN FORCING ME TO TURN MY ATTENTIONS AWAY FROM DEVOURING EARTH FOR A TIME.
AS PUNISHMENT FOR HIS TREACHERY, I TEMPORARILY CONFINED THE SURFER TO EARTH, DENYING HIM THE ABILITY TO SOAR THE SPACEWAYS. EVENTUALLY, PROPERLY CHASTISED, HE WOULD AGAIN SERVE AT MY COMMAND.


THE ORIGINAL RED SKULL, AWAKENED FROM SUSPENDED ANIMATION BY THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION A.I.M.--ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS--BRIEFLY HELD THE REALITY-CHANGING WEAPON KNOWN AS THE COSMIC CUBE BEFORE HAVING IT WRESTED AWAY IN BATTLE WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA.
UNDER THE NEWLY ASSUMED IDENTITY OF YELLOWJACKET, HANK PYM WED JANET VAN DYNE.
MEANWHILE, THE KREE TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO EARTH ONCE MORE. A HIGHLY TRAINED KREE SOLDIER, MAR-VELL, WAS DISPATCHED TO SPY ON THE HUMAN RACE.
CAUGHT IN A POWER STRUGGLE AMONG HIS KIND, CAPTAIN MAR-VELL RESIGNED FROM SERVICE--
--AND CAST ASIDE HIS MILITARY UNIFORM IN FAVOR OF A LOOK DESIGNED BY THE KREE'S OWN SUPREME INTELLIGENCE.
MAR-VELL'S INDEPENDENCE, HOWEVER, WAS SHORT-LIVED ONCE AN ACCIDENT PLUNGED HIM INTO THE ANTIMATTER CONTINUUM THAT REED RICHARDS, ITS FIRST HUMAN EXPLORER, NAMED "THE NEGATIVE ZONE."
RICHARDS WAS NO STRANGER TO THIS HARSH REALM. HE KNEW OF ITS DANGERS. BUT HE ALSO KNEW THAT HIS WIFE, PREGNANT WITH THEIR FIRST CHILD, WAS DYING FROM A RADIATION POISONING CURABLE ONLY WITH A DEVICE FROM THE ZONE.
HE AND HIS FRIENDS BRAVED THE THREATS THEREIN, INCLUDING THE MAD TYRANT ANNIHILUS, IN ORDER TO SAVE SUSAN RICHARDS...
...AND THEIR CHILD.
YOU.

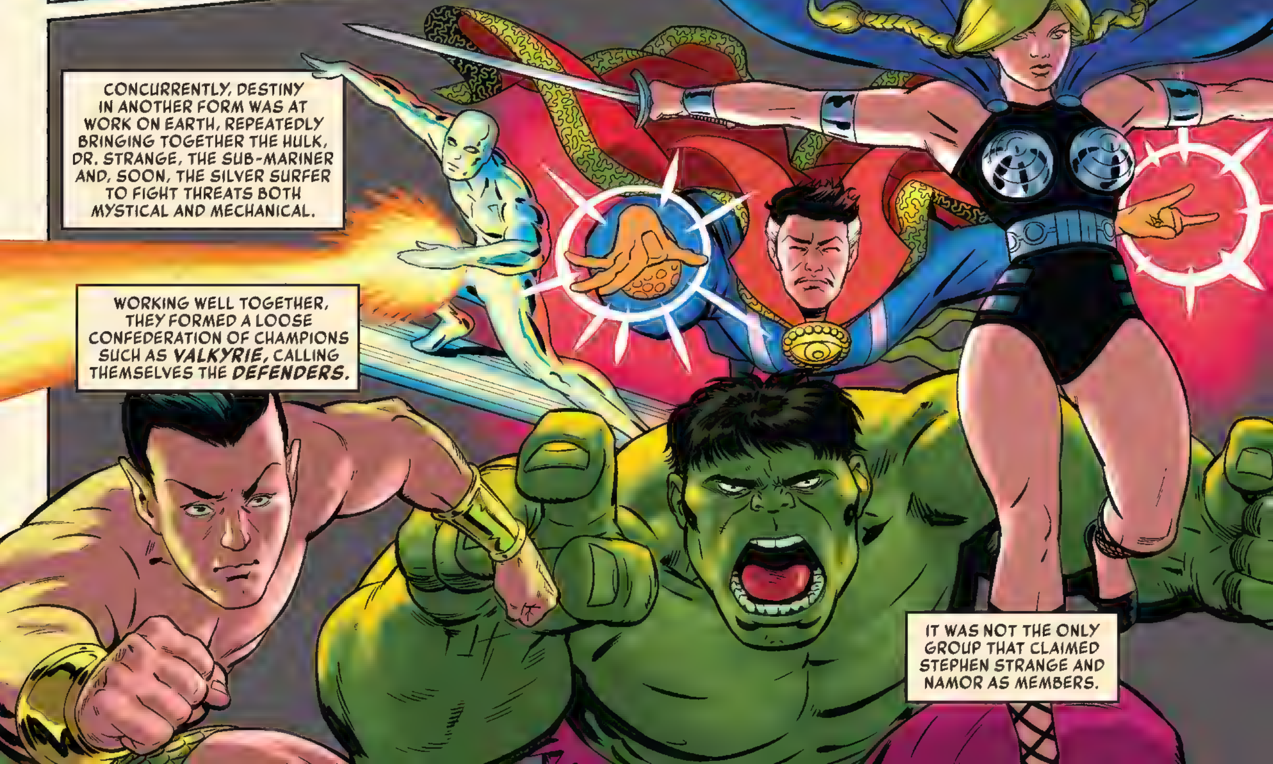

I THOUGHT YOU'D **NEVER** GET AROUND TO ME.
YOURS IS A COMPLEX HISTORY UNTO ITS OWN, FRANKLIN RICHARDS. THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANT EVER BORN.
AS I CONSUME, SO DO YOU **BUILD.**
DID BUILD.
NOT AT FIRST. THAT MUCH, I RECALL. BUT, EVENTUALLY, WORLDS. THEN, AS I GREW OLDER, MULTIVERSES.
A FEW CENTURIES AFTER **THAT,** I **REALLY** LET MY IMAGINATION RUN WILD, DIDN'T I?
WE'RE THE BALANCE OF THE UNIVERSE, REALLY, YOU AND I. THE UTMOST CREATOR, THE ULTIMATE DESTROYER. WOULD I EVEN HAVE BEEN BORN HAD YOU NOT EXISTED? HAVE YOU BEEN INCESSANTLY RESURRECTED **BECAUSE** I WAS AROUND?
DO WE **NEED** EACH OTHER?
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, RIGHT? WHEN WE LEAVE HERE.
GALAN?
THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, AS YOU MEASURE IT, MARCHED ONWARD.



EARTHMAN **RICK JONES**, ONCE THE HULK'S COMPANION AND BRIEFLY CAPTAIN AMERICA'S FIGHTING PARTNER, BECAME A KEY PLAYER IN HUMAN HISTORY AS THE KREE'S ETERNAL STRUGGLE WITH THE SKRULLS REACHED ITS CLIMAX. BY STRIKING THE **NEGA-BANDS**, JONES COULD TRADE PLACES WITH MAR-VELL FOR SHORT PERIODS--



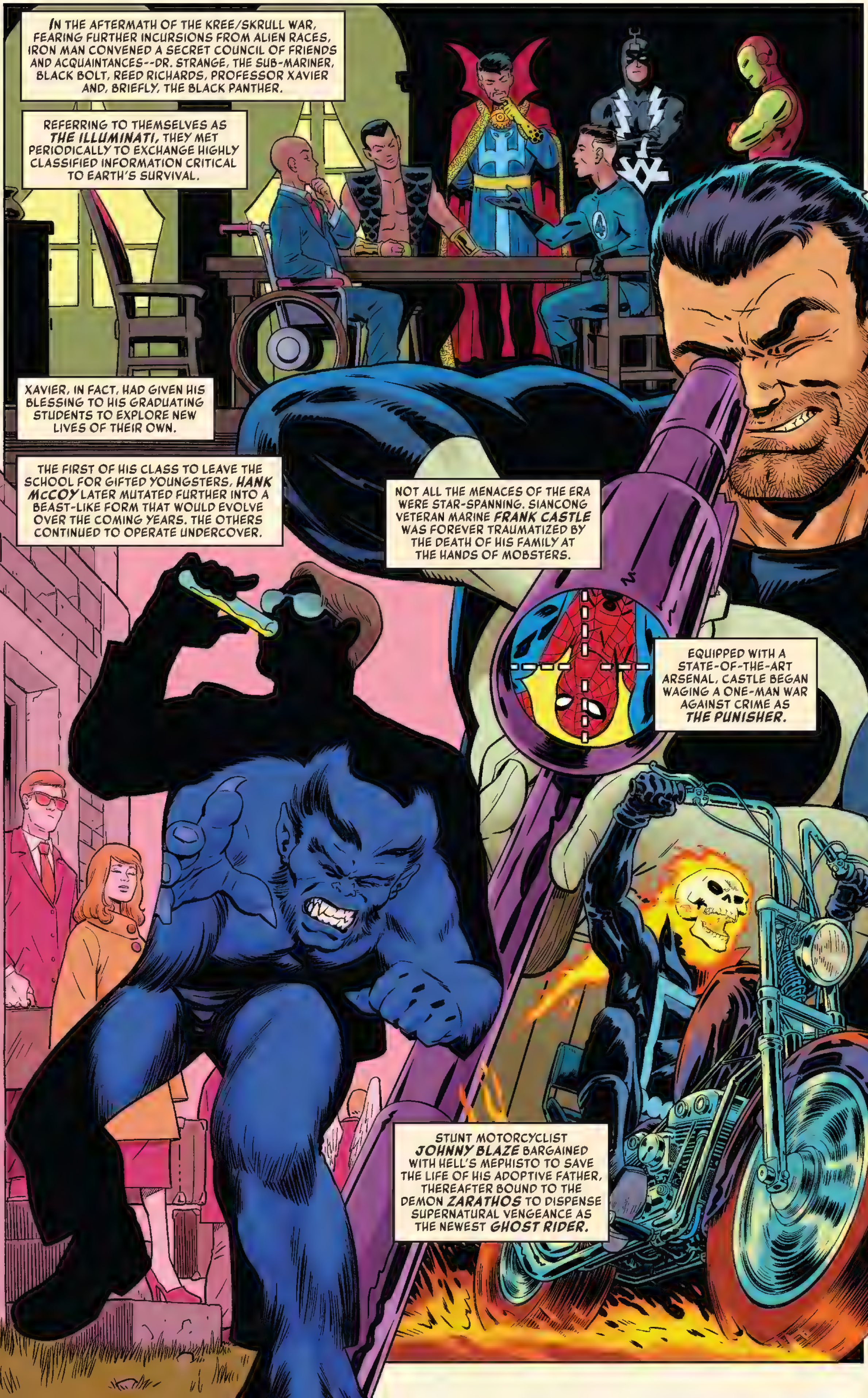
--BUT IT WAS JONES HIMSELF, ALONGSIDE THE AVENGERS, WHO ENDED THE KREE/SKRULL WAR ONCE THE **SUPREME INTELLIGENCE** SPARKED WITHIN HIM--FOR A BRIEF BUT CRITICAL MOMENT--THE **DESTINY FORCE**, A MYSTERIOUS AND NEAR-LIMITLESS ENERGY THAT BESTED BOTH ARMIES.

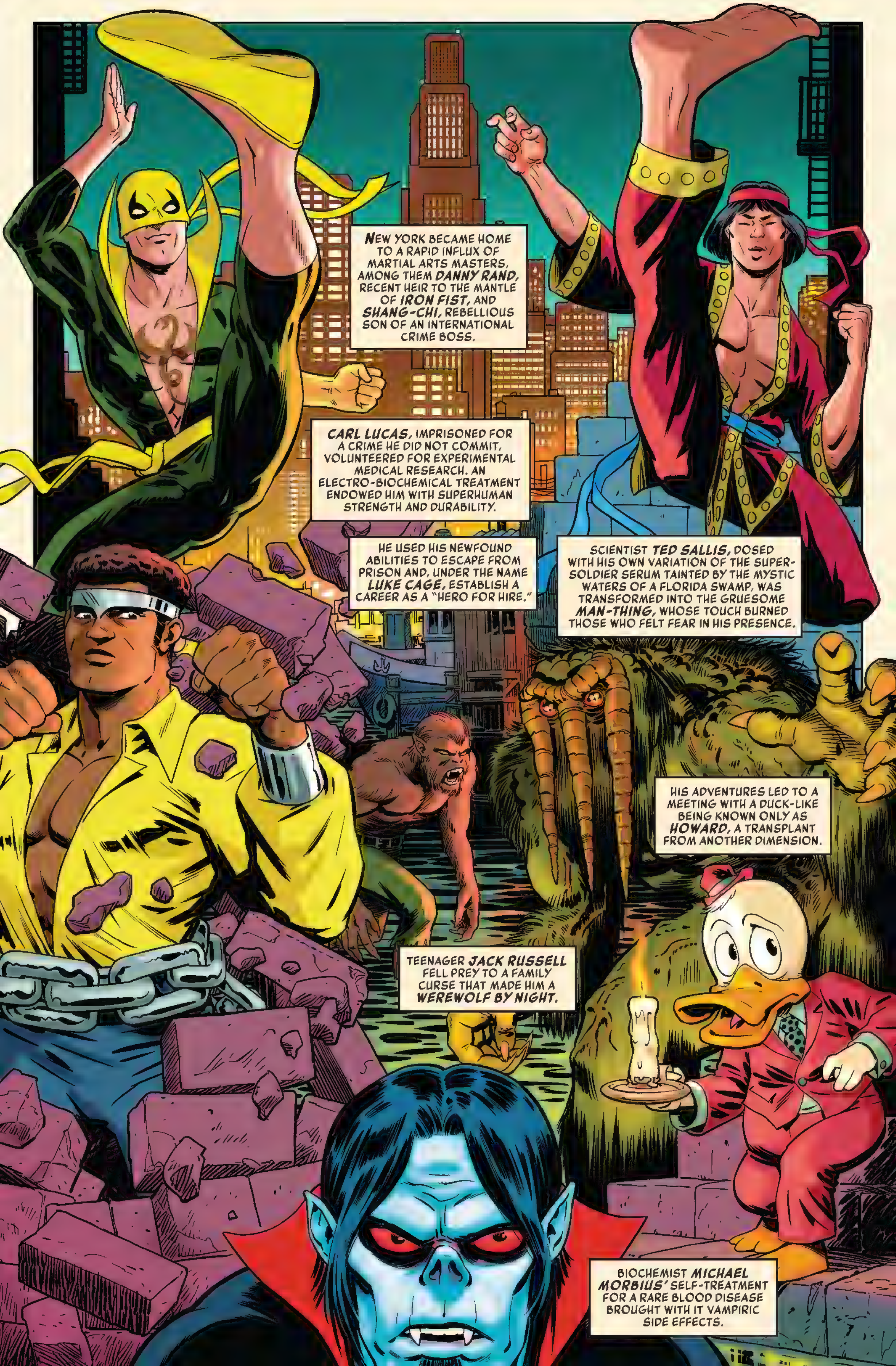


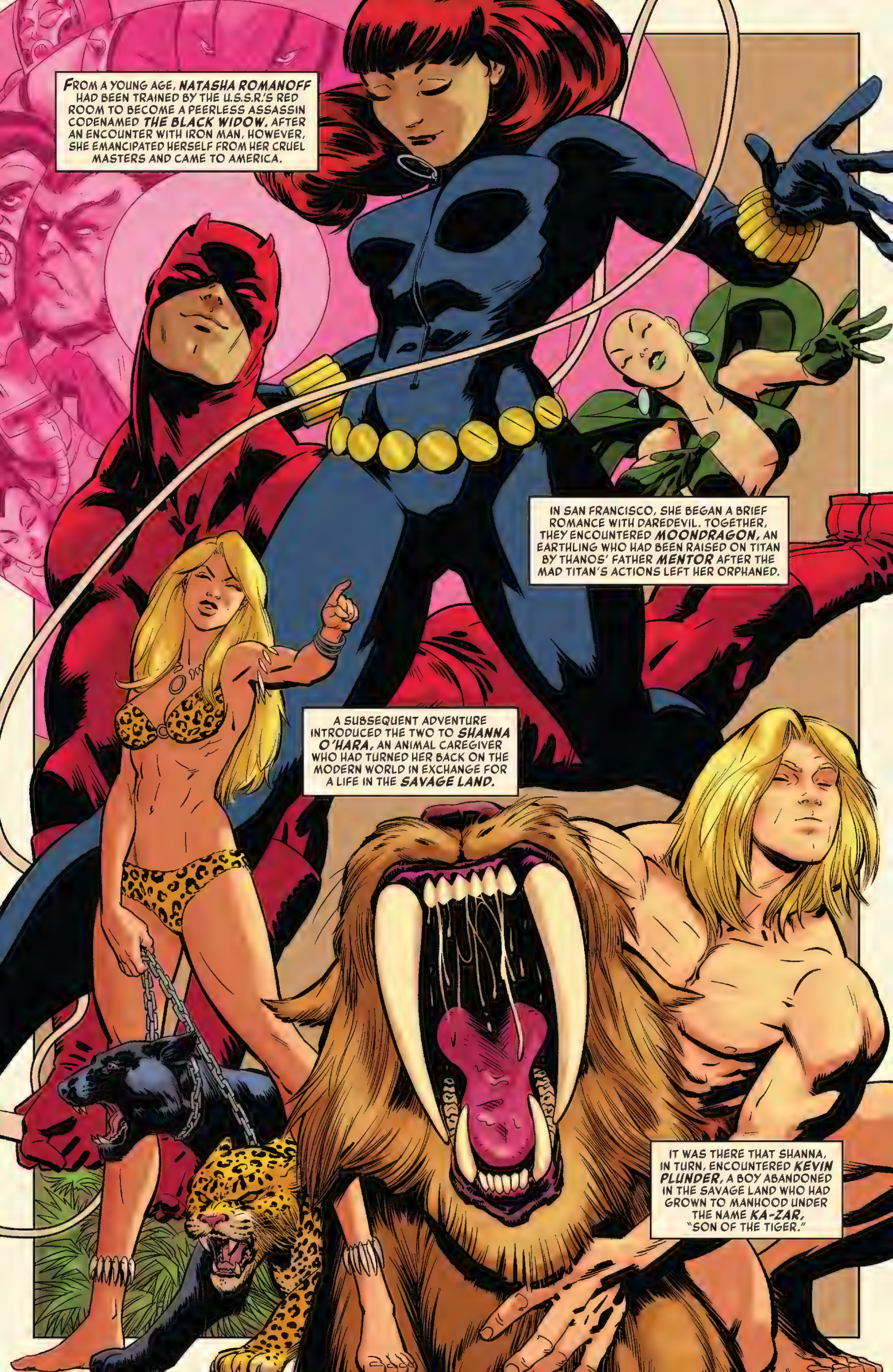
CONCURRENTLY, DESTINY IN ANOTHER FORM WAS AT WORK ON EARTH, REPEATEDLY BRINGING TOGETHER THE HULK, DR. STRANGE, THE SUB-MARINER AND, SOON, THE SILVER SURFER TO FIGHT THREATS BOTH MYSTICAL AND MECHANICAL.

WORKING WELL TOGETHER, THEY FORMED A LOOSE CONFEDERATION OF CHAMPIONS SUCH AS **VALKYRIE**, CALLING THEMSELVES THE **DEFENDERS**.

IT WAS NOT THE ONLY GROUP THAT CLAIMED STEPHEN STRANGE AND NAMOR AS MEMBERS.


IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE KREE/SKRULL WAR, FEARING FURTHER INCURSIONS FROM ALIEN RACES, IRON MAN CONVENED A SECRET COUNCIL OF FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES--DR. STRANGE, THE SUB-MARINER, BLACK BOLT, REED RICHARDS, PROFESSOR XAVIER AND, BRIEFLY, THE BLACK PANTHER.
REFERRING TO THEMSELVES AS ***THE ILLUMINATI,*** THEY MET PERIODICALLY TO EXCHANGE HIGHLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION CRITICAL TO EARTH'S SURVIVAL.
XAVIER, IN FACT, HAD GIVEN HIS BLESSING TO HIS GRADUATING STUDENTS TO EXPLORE NEW LIVES OF THEIR OWN.
THE FIRST OF HIS CLASS TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, ***HANK McCOY*** LATER MUTATED FURTHER INTO A BEAST-LIKE FORM THAT WOULD EVOLVE OVER THE COMING YEARS. THE OTHERS CONTINUED TO OPERATE UNDERCOVER.
NOT ALL THE MENACES OF THE ERA WERE STAR-SPANNING. SIANCONG VETERAN MARINE ***FRANK CASTLE*** WAS FOREVER TRAUMATIZED BY THE DEATH OF HIS FAMILY AT THE HANDS OF MOBSTERS.
EQUIPPED WITH A STATE-OF-THE-ART ARSENAL, CASTLE BEGAN WAGING A ONE-MAN WAR AGAINST CRIME AS ***THE PUNISHER.***
STUNT MOTORCYCLIST ***JOHNNY BLAZE*** BARGAINED WITH HELL'S MEPHISTO TO SAVE THE LIFE OF HIS ADOPTIVE FATHER, THEREAFTER BOUND TO THE DEMON ***ZARATHOS*** TO DISPENSE SUPERNATURAL VENGEANCE AS THE NEWEST ***GHOST RIDER.***


NEW YORK BECAME HOME TO A RAPID INFLUX OF MARTIAL ARTS MASTERS, AMONG THEM **DANNY RAND,** RECENT HEIR TO THE MANTLE OF **IRON FIST,** AND **SHANG-CHI,** REBELLIOUS SON OF AN INTERNATIONAL CRIME BOSS.
CARL LUCAS, IMPRISONED FOR A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT, VOLUNTEERED FOR EXPERIMENTAL MEDICAL RESEARCH. AN ELECTRO-BIOCHEMICAL TREATMENT ENDOWED HIM WITH SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH AND DURABILITY.
HE USED HIS NEWFOUND ABILITIES TO ESCAPE FROM PRISON AND, UNDER THE NAME **LUKE CAGE,** ESTABLISH A CAREER AS A "HERO FOR HIRE."
SCIENTIST **TED SALLIS,** DOSED WITH HIS OWN VARIATION OF THE SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM TAINTED BY THE MYSTIC WATERS OF A FLORIDA SWAMP, WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE GRUESOME **MAN-THING,** WHOSE TOUCH BURNED THOSE WHO FELT FEAR IN HIS PRESENCE.
HIS ADVENTURES LED TO A MEETING WITH A DUCK-LIKE BEING KNOWN ONLY AS **HOWARD,** A TRANSPLANT FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION.
TEENAGER **JACK RUSSELL** FELL PREY TO A FAMILY CURSE THAT MADE HIM A **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT.**
BIOCHEMIST **MICHAEL MORBIUS'** SELF-TREATMENT FOR A RARE BLOOD DISEASE BROUGHT WITH IT VAMPIRIC SIDE EFFECTS.

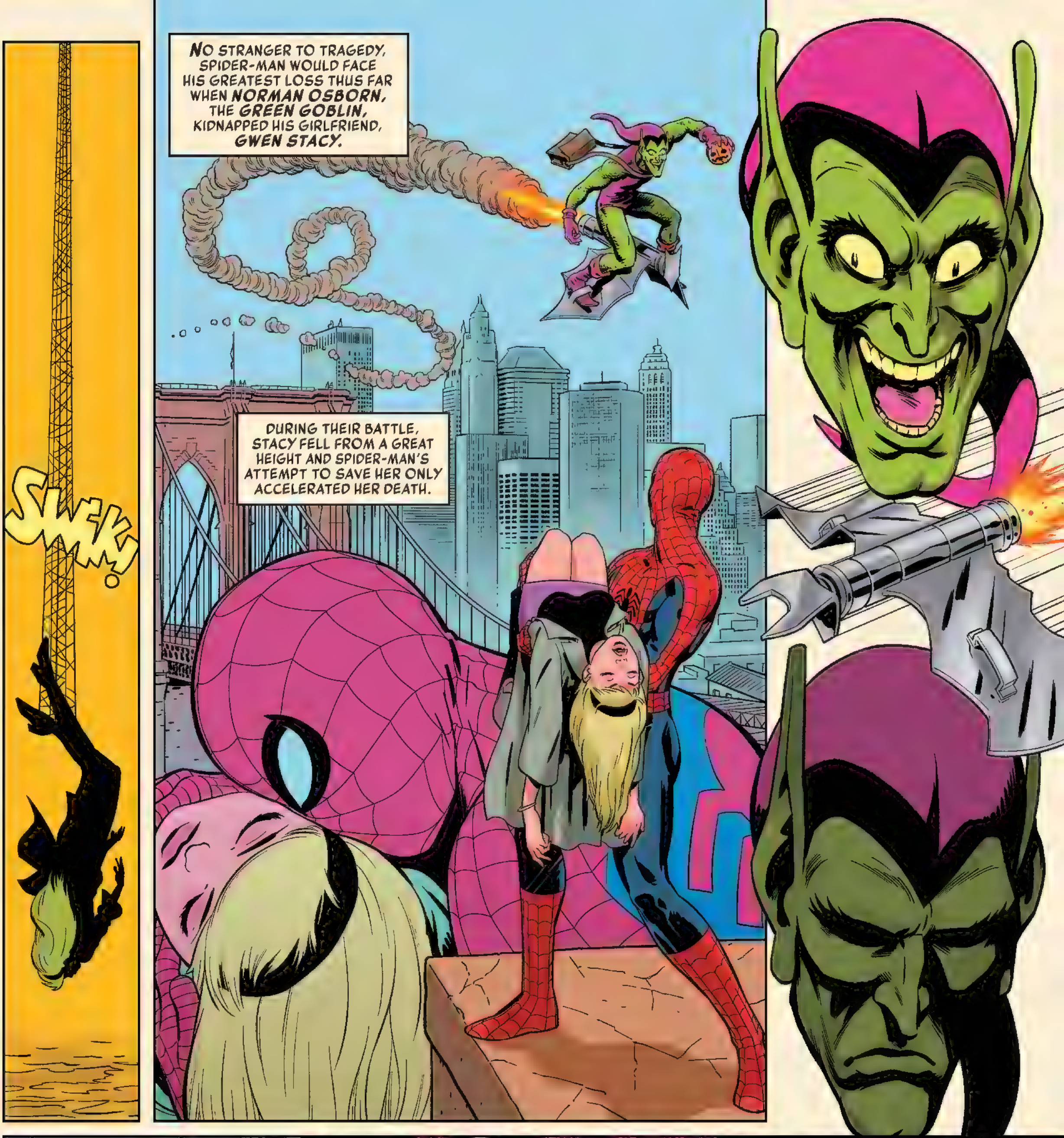


FROM A YOUNG AGE, ***NATASHA ROMANOFF*** HAD BEEN TRAINED BY THE U.S.S.R.'S RED ROOM TO BECOME A PEERLESS ASSASSIN CODENAMED ***THE BLACK WIDOW.*** AFTER AN ENCOUNTER WITH IRON MAN, HOWEVER, SHE EMANCIPATED HERSELF FROM HER CRUEL MASTERS AND CAME TO AMERICA.

IN SAN FRANCISCO, SHE BEGAN A BRIEF ROMANCE WITH DAREDEVIL. TOGETHER, THEY ENCOUNTERED ***MOONDRAGON,*** AN EARTHLING WHO HAD BEEN RAISED ON TITAN BY THANOS' FATHER ***MENTOR*** AFTER THE MAD TITAN'S ACTIONS LEFT HER ORPHANED.

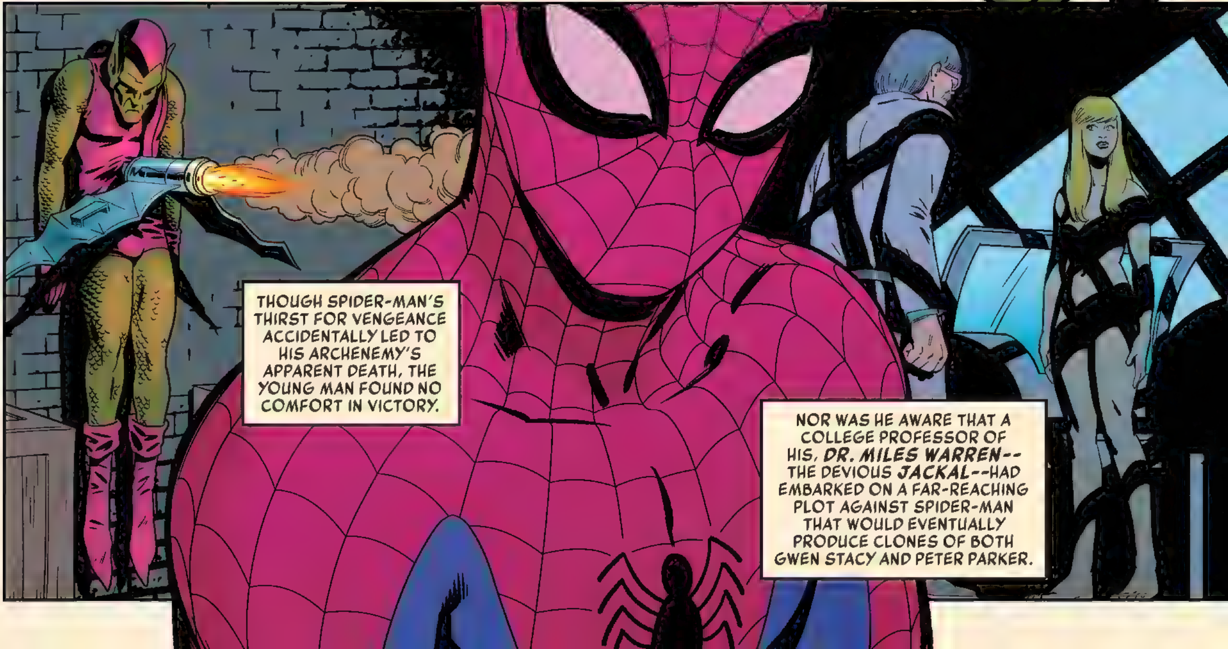
A SUBSEQUENT ADVENTURE INTRODUCED THE TWO TO ***SHANNA O'HARA,*** AN ANIMAL CAREGIVER WHO HAD TURNED HER BACK ON THE MODERN WORLD IN EXCHANGE FOR A LIFE IN THE ***SAVAGE LAND.***

IT WAS THERE THAT SHANNA, IN TURN, ENCOUNTERED ***KEVIN PLUNDER,*** A BOY ABANDONED IN THE SAVAGE LAND WHO HAD GROWN TO MANHOOD UNDER THE NAME ***KA-ZAR,*** "SON OF THE TIGER."



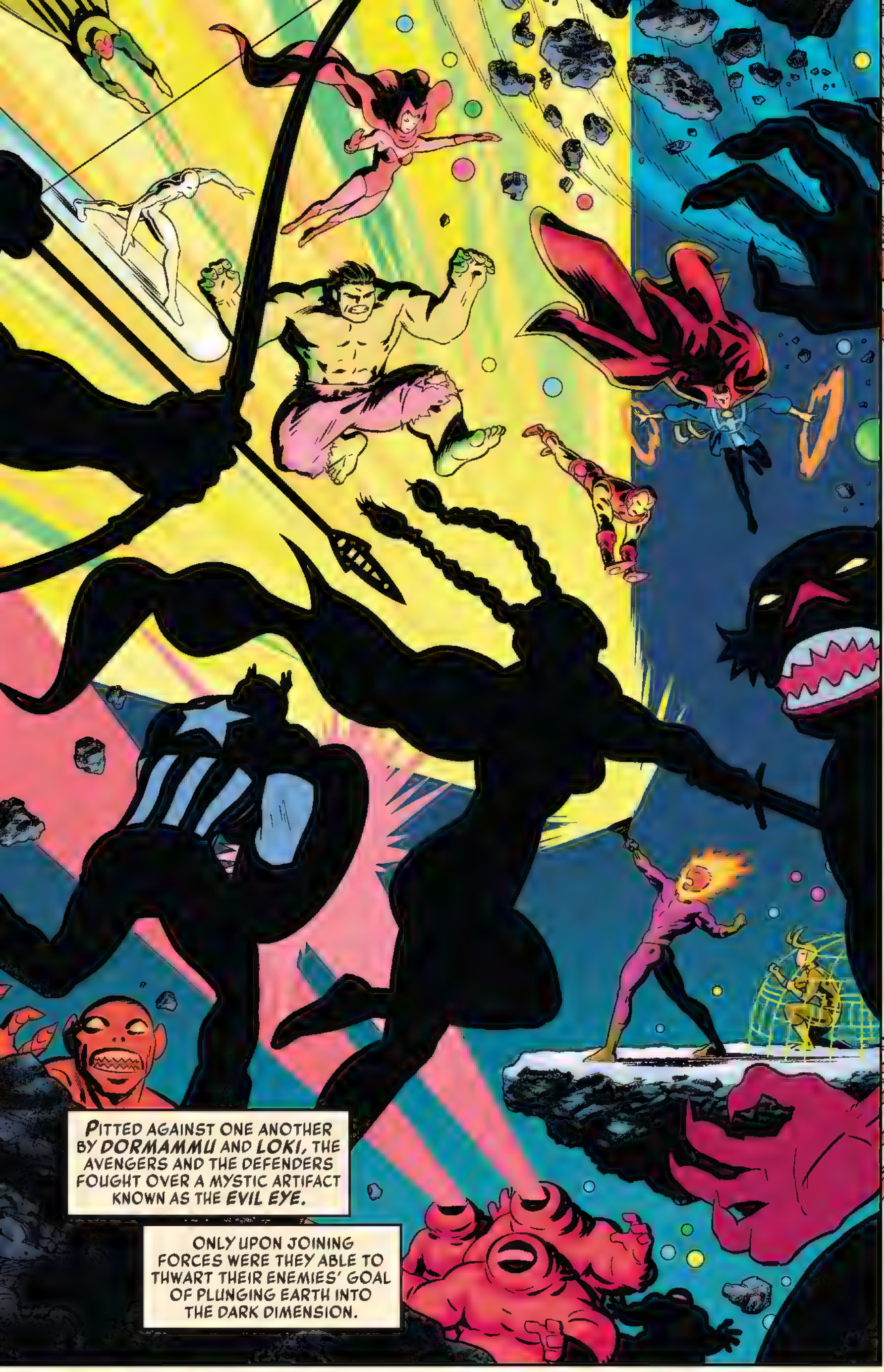
NO STRANGER TO TRAGEDY, SPIDER-MAN WOULD FACE HIS GREATEST LOSS THUS FAR WHEN ***NORMAN OSBORN,*** THE ***GREEN GOBLIN,*** KIDNAPPED HIS GIRLFRIEND, ***GWEN STACY.***

DURING THEIR BATTLE, STACY FELL FROM A GREAT HEIGHT AND SPIDER-MAN'S ATTEMPT TO SAVE HER ONLY ACCELERATED HER DEATH.



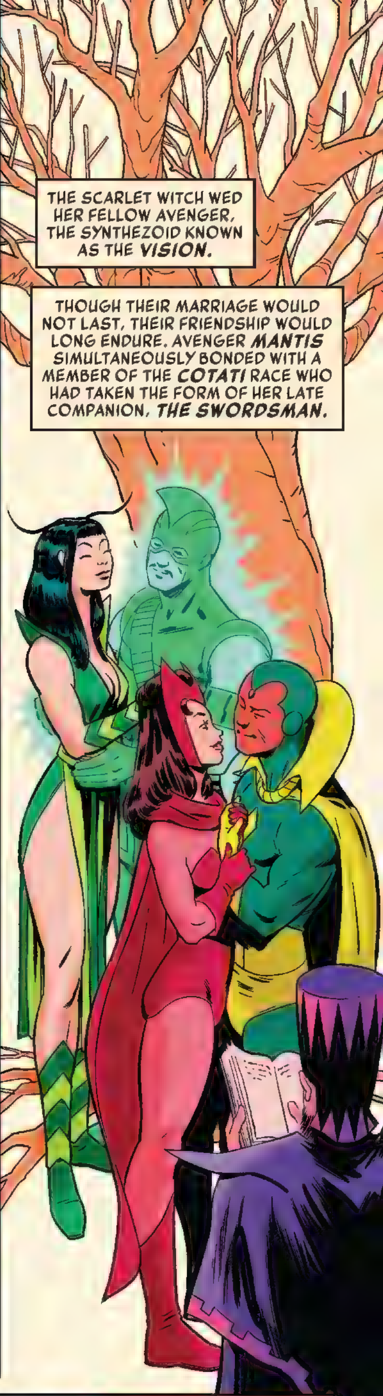
THOUGH SPIDER-MAN'S THIRST FOR VENGEANCE ACCIDENTALLY LED TO HIS ARCHENEMY'S APPARENT DEATH, THE YOUNG MAN FOUND NO COMFORT IN VICTORY.

NOR WAS HE AWARE THAT A COLLEGE PROFESSOR OF HIS, ***DR. MILES WARREN***--THE DEVIOUS ***JACKAL***--HAD EMBARKED ON A FAR-REACHING PLOT AGAINST SPIDER-MAN THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY PRODUCE CLONES OF BOTH GWEN STACY AND PETER PARKER.



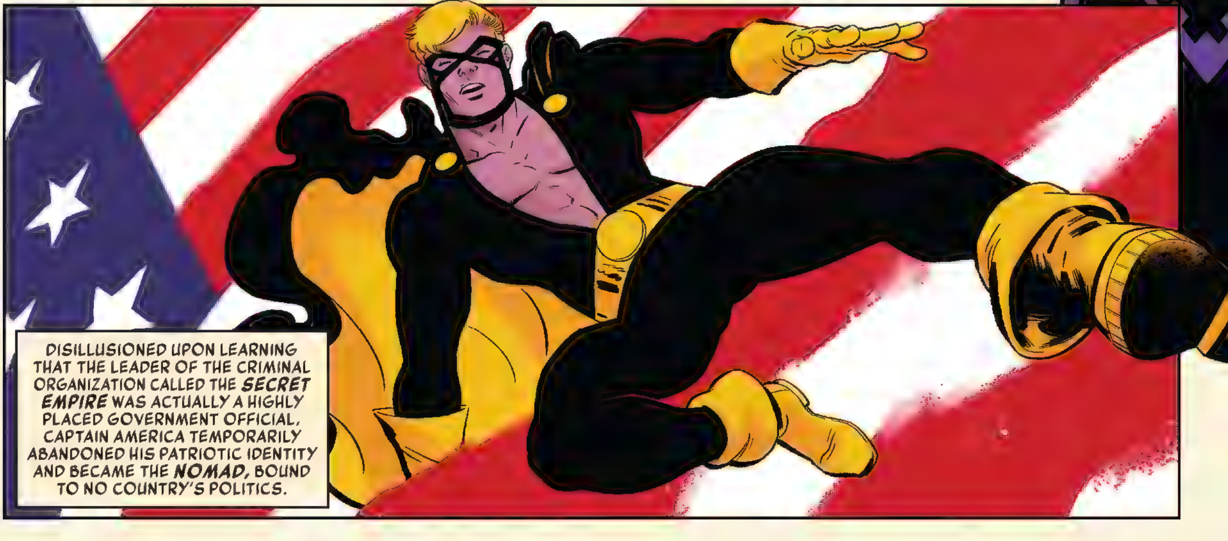
PITTED AGAINST ONE ANOTHER BY ***DORMAMMU*** AND ***LOKI***, THE AVENGERS AND THE DEFENDERS FOUGHT OVER A MYSTIC ARTIFACT KNOWN AS THE ***EVIL EYE***.

ONLY UPON JOINING FORCES WERE THEY ABLE TO THWART THEIR ENEMIES' GOAL OF PLUNGING EARTH INTO THE DARK DIMENSION.

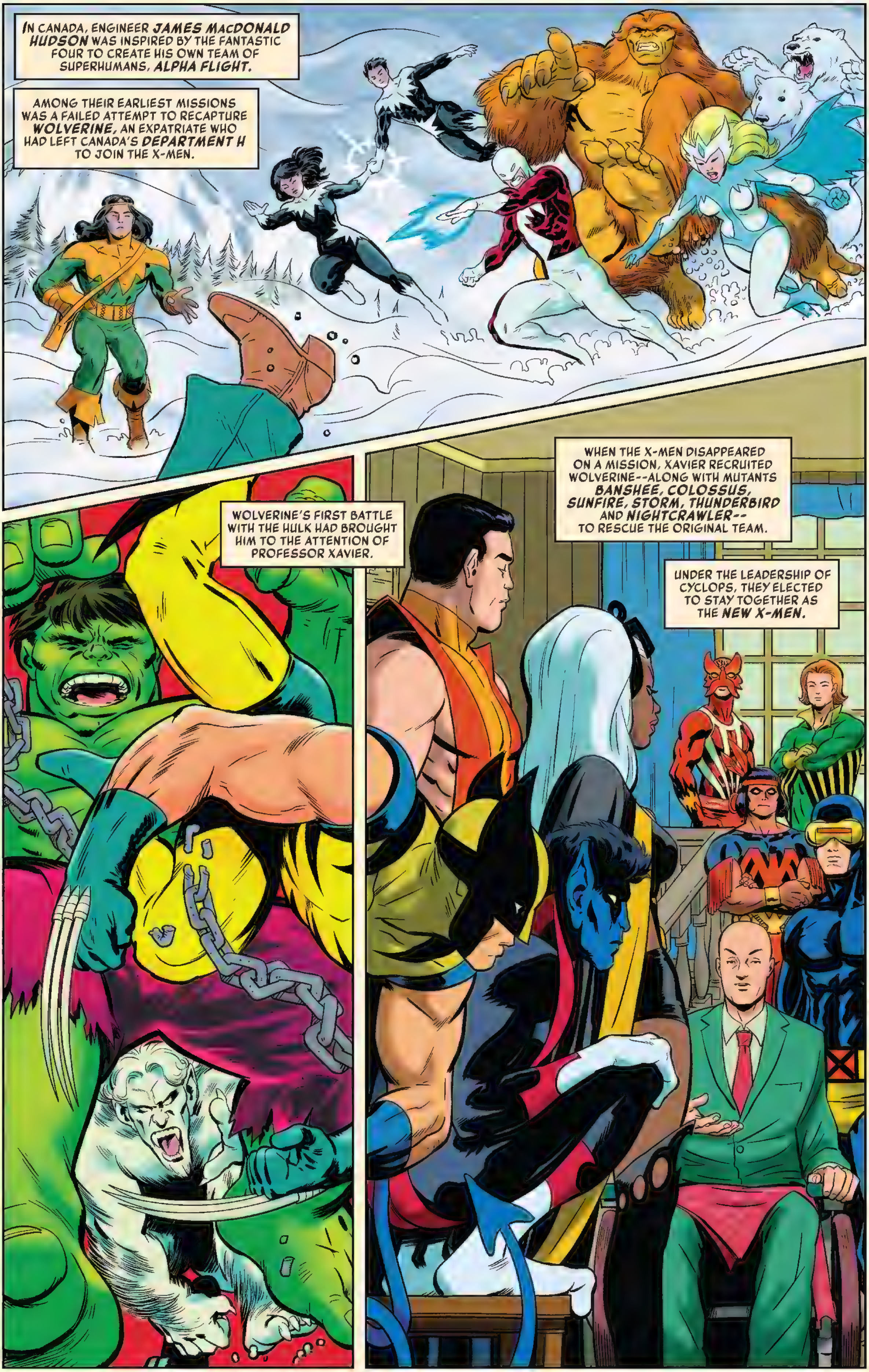


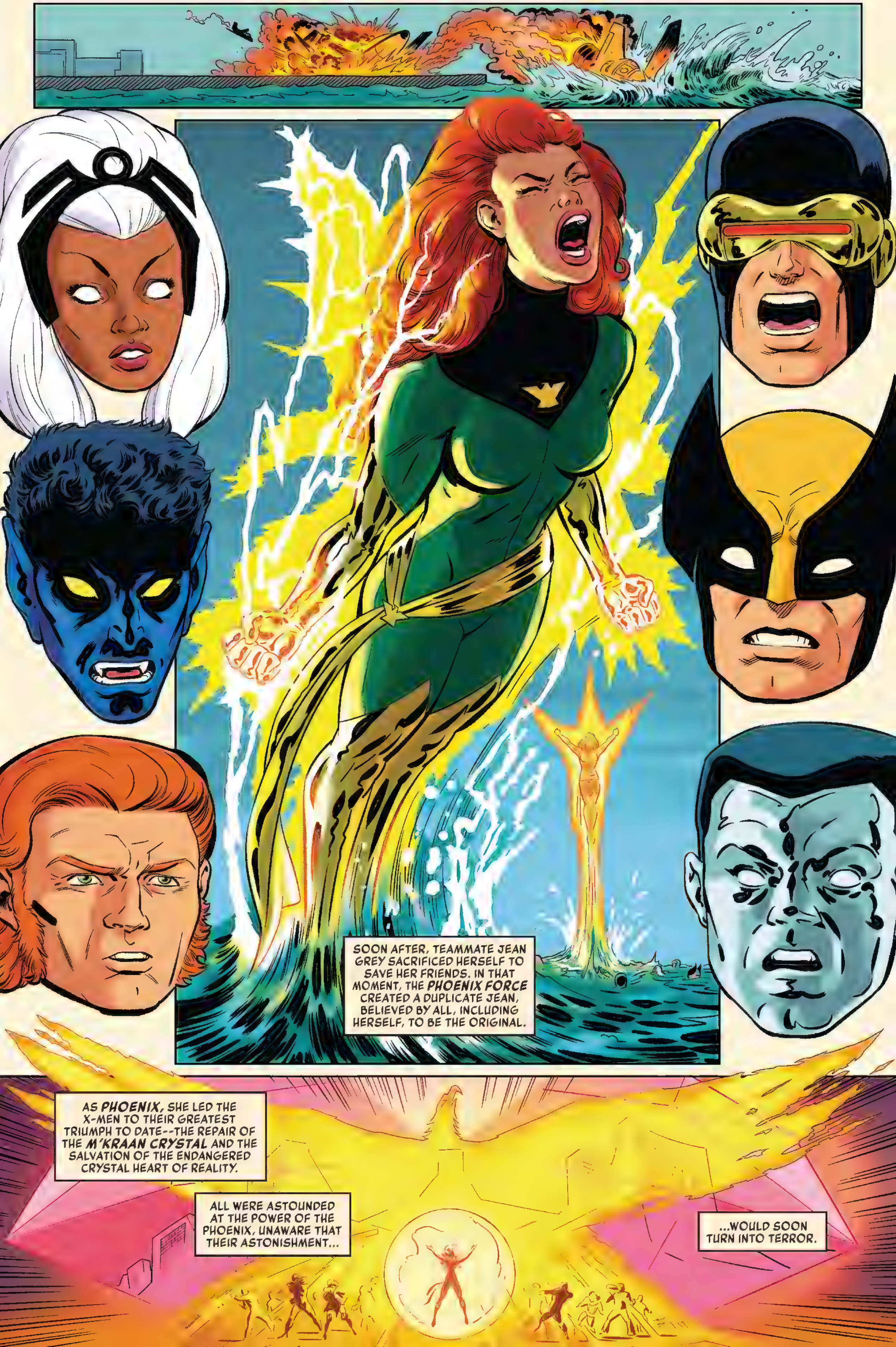
THE SCARLET WITCH WED HER FELLOW AVENGER, THE SYNTHEZOID KNOWN AS THE ***VISION***.

THOUGH THEIR MARRIAGE WOULD NOT LAST, THEIR FRIENDSHIP WOULD LONG ENDURE. AVENGER ***MANTIS*** SIMULTANEOUSLY BONDED WITH A MEMBER OF THE ***COTATI*** RACE WHO HAD TAKEN THE FORM OF HER LATE COMPANION, ***THE SWORDSMAN***.



DISILLUSIONED UPON LEARNING THAT THE LEADER OF THE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION CALLED THE ***SECRET EMPIRE*** WAS ACTUALLY A HIGHLY PLACED GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, CAPTAIN AMERICA TEMPORARILY ABANDONED HIS PATRIOTIC IDENTITY AND BECAME THE ***NOMAD***, BOUND TO NO COUNTRY'S POLITICS.

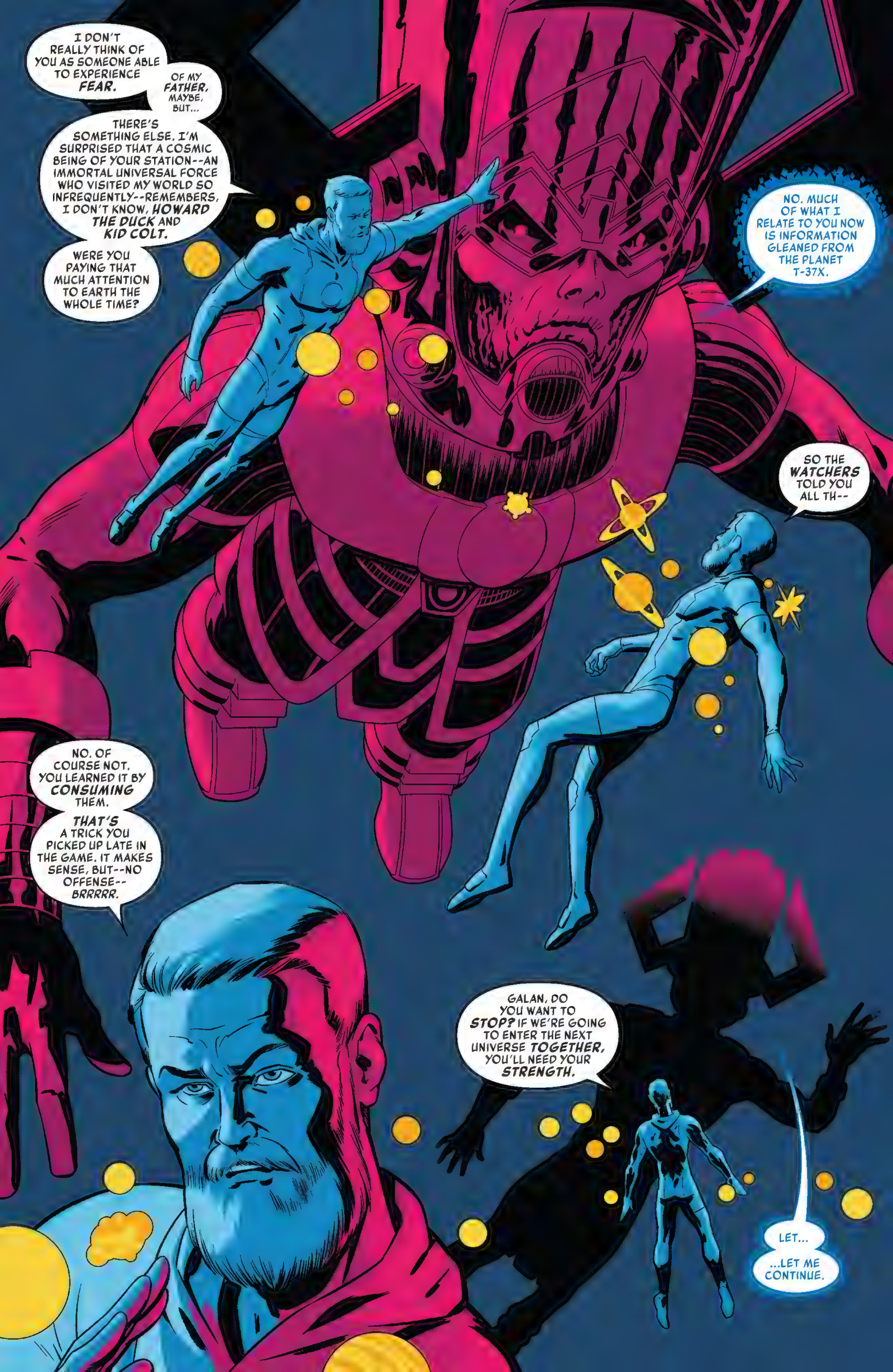

IN CANADA, ENGINEER **JAMES MacDONALD HUDSON** WAS INSPIRED BY THE FANTASTIC FOUR TO CREATE HIS OWN TEAM OF SUPERHUMANS, **ALPHA FLIGHT.**
AMONG THEIR EARLIEST MISSIONS WAS A FAILED ATTEMPT TO RECAPTURE **WOLVERINE,** AN EXPATRIATE WHO HAD LEFT CANADA'S **DEPARTMENT H** TO JOIN THE X-MEN.
WOLVERINE'S FIRST BATTLE WITH THE HULK HAD BROUGHT HIM TO THE ATTENTION OF PROFESSOR XAVIER.
WHEN THE X-MEN DISAPPEARED ON A MISSION, XAVIER RECRUITED WOLVERINE--ALONG WITH MUTANTS **BANSHEE, COLOSSUS, SUNFIRE, STORM, THUNDERBIRD** AND **NIGHTCRAWLER--** TO RESCUE THE ORIGINAL TEAM.
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CYCLOPS, THEY ELECTED TO STAY TOGETHER AS THE **NEW X-MEN.**

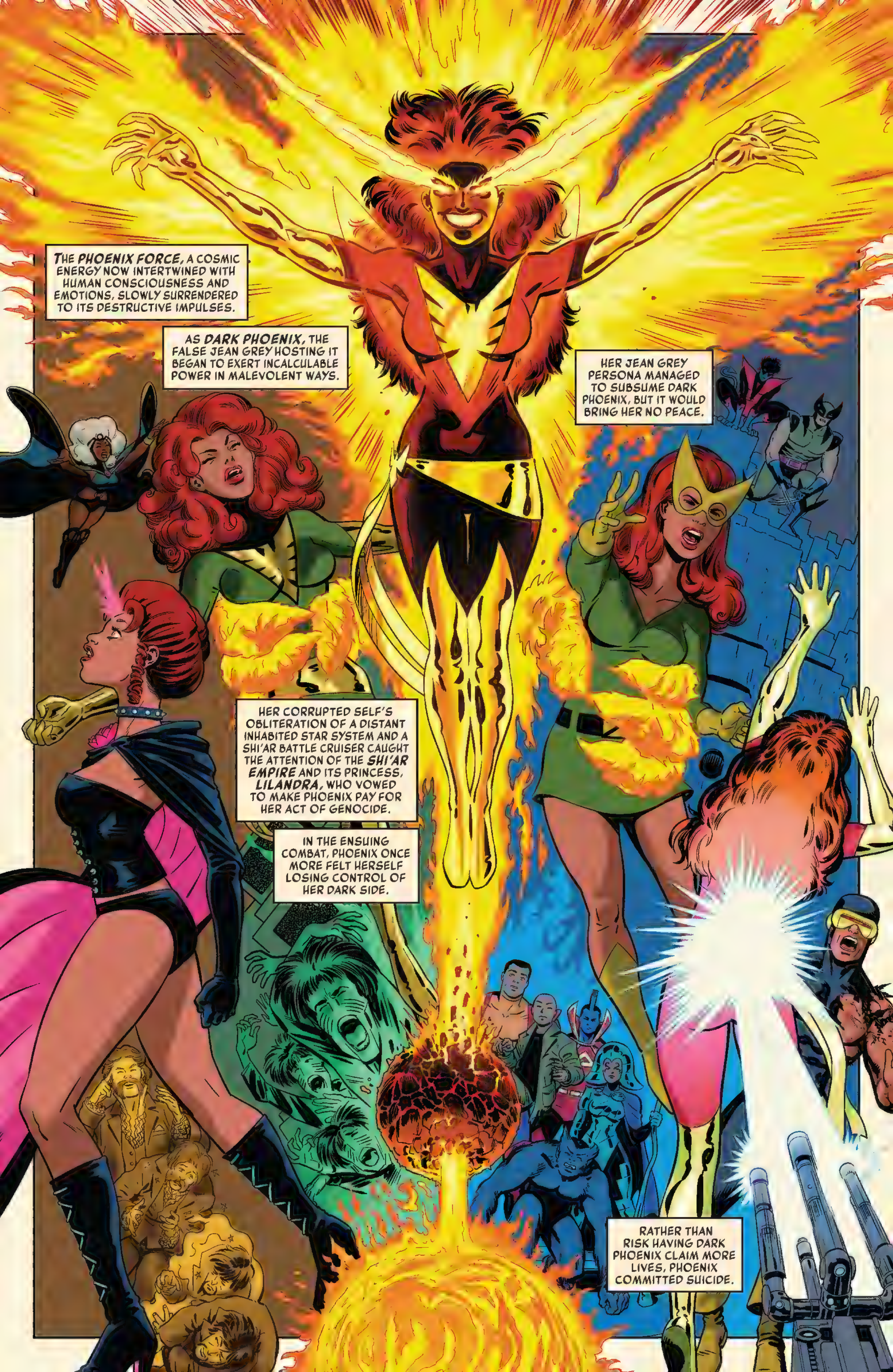

SOON AFTER, TEAMMATE JEAN GREY SACRIFICED HERSELF TO SAVE HER FRIENDS. IN THAT MOMENT, THE ***PHOENIX FORCE*** CREATED A DUPLICATE JEAN, BELIEVED BY ALL, INCLUDING HERSELF, TO BE THE ORIGINAL.
AS ***PHOENIX,*** SHE LED THE X-MEN TO THEIR GREATEST TRIUMPH TO DATE--THE REPAIR OF THE ***M'KRAAN CRYSTAL*** AND THE SALVATION OF THE ENDANGERED CRYSTAL HEART OF REALITY.
ALL WERE ASTOUNDED AT THE POWER OF THE PHOENIX, UNAWARE THAT THEIR ASTONISHMENT...
...WOULD SOON TURN INTO TERROR.

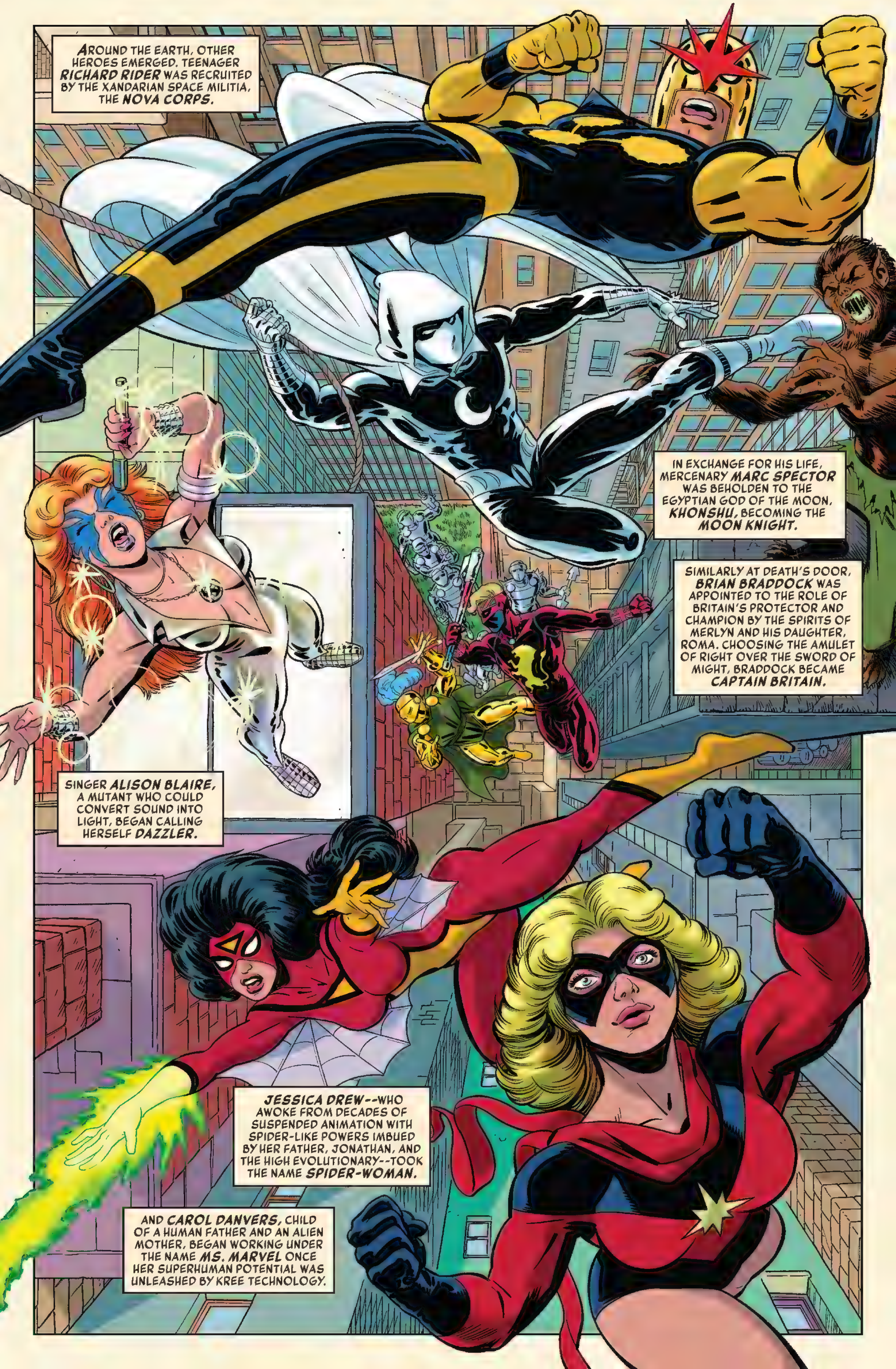
#2 VARIANT BY **JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ** & **ÁLVARO LÓPEZ**

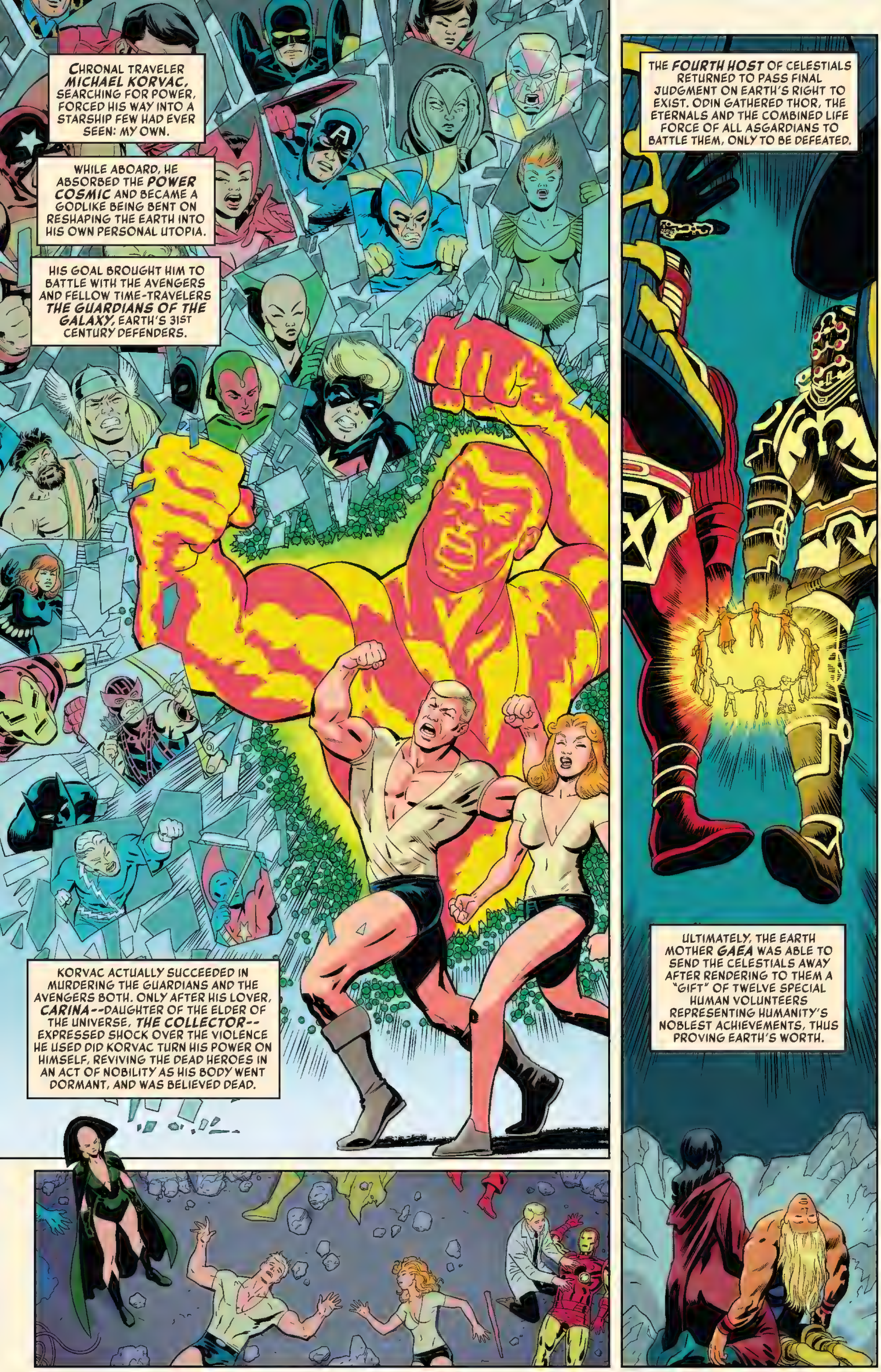
4

McNIVEN FARMER


I DON'T REALLY THINK OF YOU AS SOMEONE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE **FEAR.**
OF MY **FATHER,** MAYBE, BUT...
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. I'M SURPRISED THAT A COSMIC BEING OF YOUR STATION--AN IMMORTAL UNIVERSAL FORCE WHO VISITED MY WORLD SO INFREQUENTLY--REMEMBERS, I DON'T KNOW, **HOWARD THE DUCK** AND **KID COLT.**
WERE YOU PAYING THAT MUCH ATTENTION TO EARTH THE WHOLE TIME?
NO. MUCH OF WHAT I RELATE TO YOU NOW IS INFORMATION GLEANED FROM THE PLANET T-37X.
SO THE **WATCHERS** TOLD YOU ALL TH--
NO. OF COURSE NOT. YOU LEARNED IT BY **CONSUMING** THEM.
THAT'S A TRICK YOU PICKED UP LATE IN THE GAME. IT MAKES SENSE, BUT--NO OFFENSE-- *BRRRRR.*
GALAN, DO YOU WANT TO **STOP?** IF WE'RE GOING TO ENTER THE NEXT UNIVERSE **TOGETHER,** YOU'LL NEED YOUR **STRENGTH.**
LET...
...LET ME CONTINUE.


THE PHOENIX FORCE, A COSMIC ENERGY NOW INTERTWINED WITH HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS AND EMOTIONS, SLOWLY SURRENDERED TO ITS DESTRUCTIVE IMPULSES.
AS DARK PHOENIX, THE FALSE JEAN GREY HOSTING IT BEGAN TO EXERT INCALCULABLE POWER IN MALEVOLENT WAYS.
HER JEAN GREY PERSONA MANAGED TO SUBSUME DARK PHOENIX, BUT IT WOULD BRING HER NO PEACE.
HER CORRUPTED SELF'S OBLITERATION OF A DISTANT INHABITED STAR SYSTEM AND A SHI'AR BATTLE CRUISER CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE AND ITS PRINCESS, LILANDRA, WHO VOWED TO MAKE PHOENIX PAY FOR HER ACT OF GENOCIDE.
IN THE ENSUING COMBAT, PHOENIX ONCE MORE FELT HERSELF LOSING CONTROL OF HER DARK SIDE.
RATHER THAN RISK HAVING DARK PHOENIX CLAIM MORE LIVES, PHOENIX COMMITTED SUICIDE.


AROUND THE EARTH, OTHER HEROES EMERGED. TEENAGER **RICHARD RIDER** WAS RECRUITED BY THE XANDARIAN SPACE MILITIA, THE **NOVA CORPS.**
IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS LIFE, MERCENARY **MARC SPECTOR** WAS BEHOLDEN TO THE EGYPTIAN GOD OF THE MOON, **KHONSHU,** BECOMING THE **MOON KNIGHT.**
SIMILARLY AT DEATH'S DOOR, **BRIAN BRADDOCK** WAS APPOINTED TO THE ROLE OF BRITAIN'S PROTECTOR AND CHAMPION BY THE SPIRITS OF MERLYN AND HIS DAUGHTER, ROMA. CHOOSING THE AMULET OF RIGHT OVER THE SWORD OF MIGHT, BRADDOCK BECAME **CAPTAIN BRITAIN.**
SINGER **ALISON BLAIRE,** A MUTANT WHO COULD CONVERT SOUND INTO LIGHT, BEGAN CALLING HERSELF **DAZZLER.**
JESSICA DREW--WHO AWOKE FROM DECADES OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION WITH SPIDER-LIKE POWERS IMBUED BY HER FATHER, JONATHAN, AND THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY--TOOK THE NAME **SPIDER-WOMAN.**
AND **CAROL DANVERS,** CHILD OF A HUMAN FATHER AND AN ALIEN MOTHER, BEGAN WORKING UNDER THE NAME **MS. MARVEL** ONCE HER SUPERHUMAN POTENTIAL WAS UNLEASHED BY KREE TECHNOLOGY.



CHRONAL TRAVELER ***MICHAEL KORVAC***, SEARCHING FOR POWER, FORCED HIS WAY INTO A STARSHIP FEW HAD EVER SEEN: MY OWN.

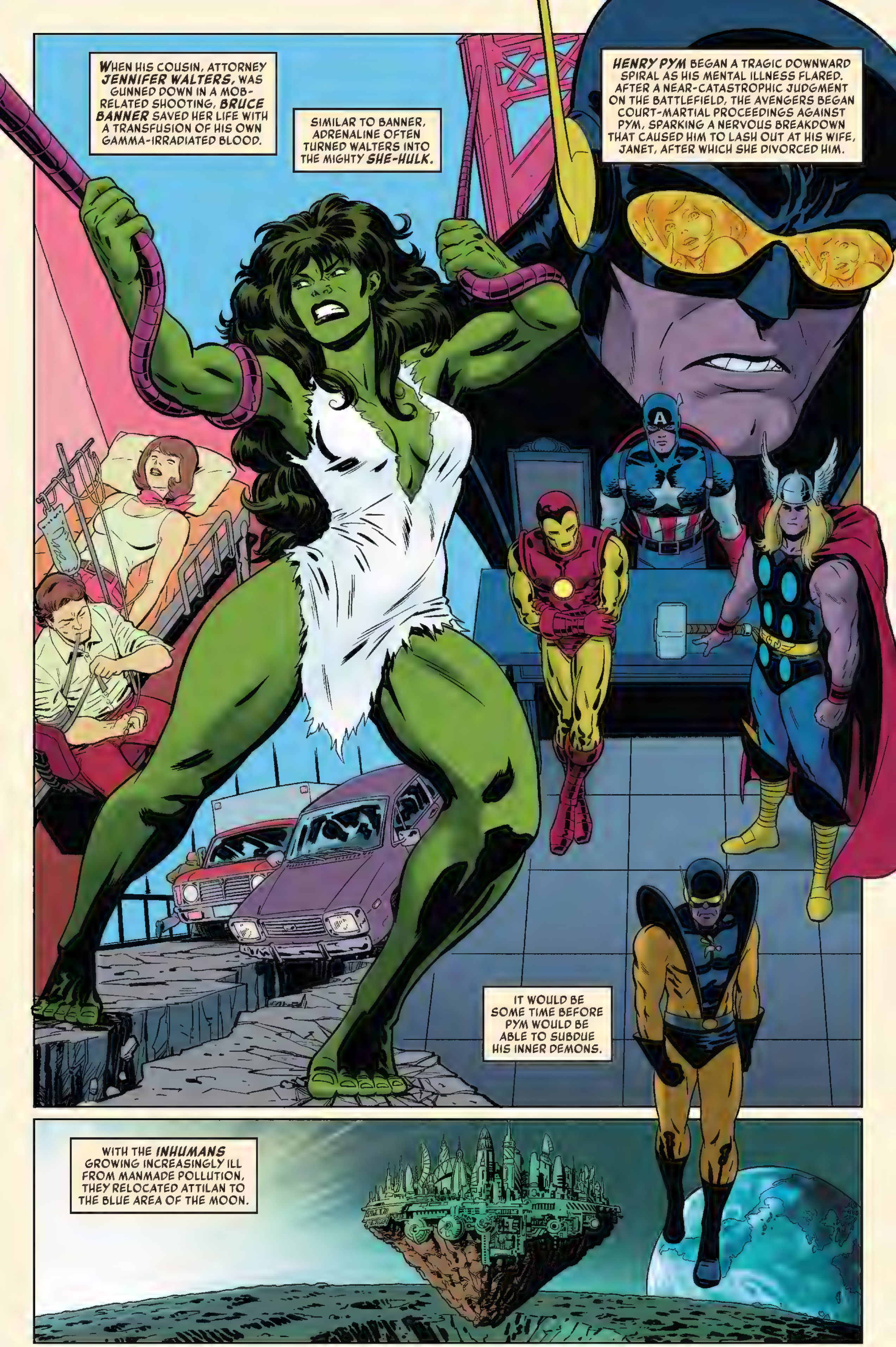
WHILE ABOARD, HE ABSORBED THE ***POWER COSMIC*** AND BECAME A GODLIKE BEING BENT ON RESHAPING THE EARTH INTO HIS OWN PERSONAL UTOPIA.

HIS GOAL BROUGHT HIM TO BATTLE WITH THE AVENGERS AND FELLOW TIME-TRAVELERS ***THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY***, EARTH'S 31ST CENTURY DEFENDERS.

KORVAC ACTUALLY SUCCEEDED IN MURDERING THE GUARDIANS AND THE AVENGERS BOTH. ONLY AFTER HIS LOVER, ***CARINA***--DAUGHTER OF THE ELDER OF THE UNIVERSE, ***THE COLLECTOR***--EXPRESSED SHOCK OVER THE VIOLENCE HE USED DID KORVAC TURN HIS POWER ON HIMSELF, REVIVING THE DEAD HEROES IN AN ACT OF NOBILITY AS HIS BODY WENT DORMANT, AND WAS BELIEVED DEAD.

THE ***FOURTH HOST*** OF CELESTIALS RETURNED TO PASS FINAL JUDGMENT ON EARTH'S RIGHT TO EXIST. ODIN GATHERED THOR, THE ETERNALS AND THE COMBINED LIFE FORCE OF ALL ASGARDIANS TO BATTLE THEM, ONLY TO BE DEFEATED.

ULTIMATELY, THE EARTH MOTHER ***GAEA*** WAS ABLE TO SEND THE CELESTIALS AWAY AFTER RENDERING TO THEM A "GIFT" OF TWELVE SPECIAL HUMAN VOLUNTEERS REPRESENTING HUMANITY'S NOBLEST ACHIEVEMENTS, THUS PROVING EARTH'S WORTH.



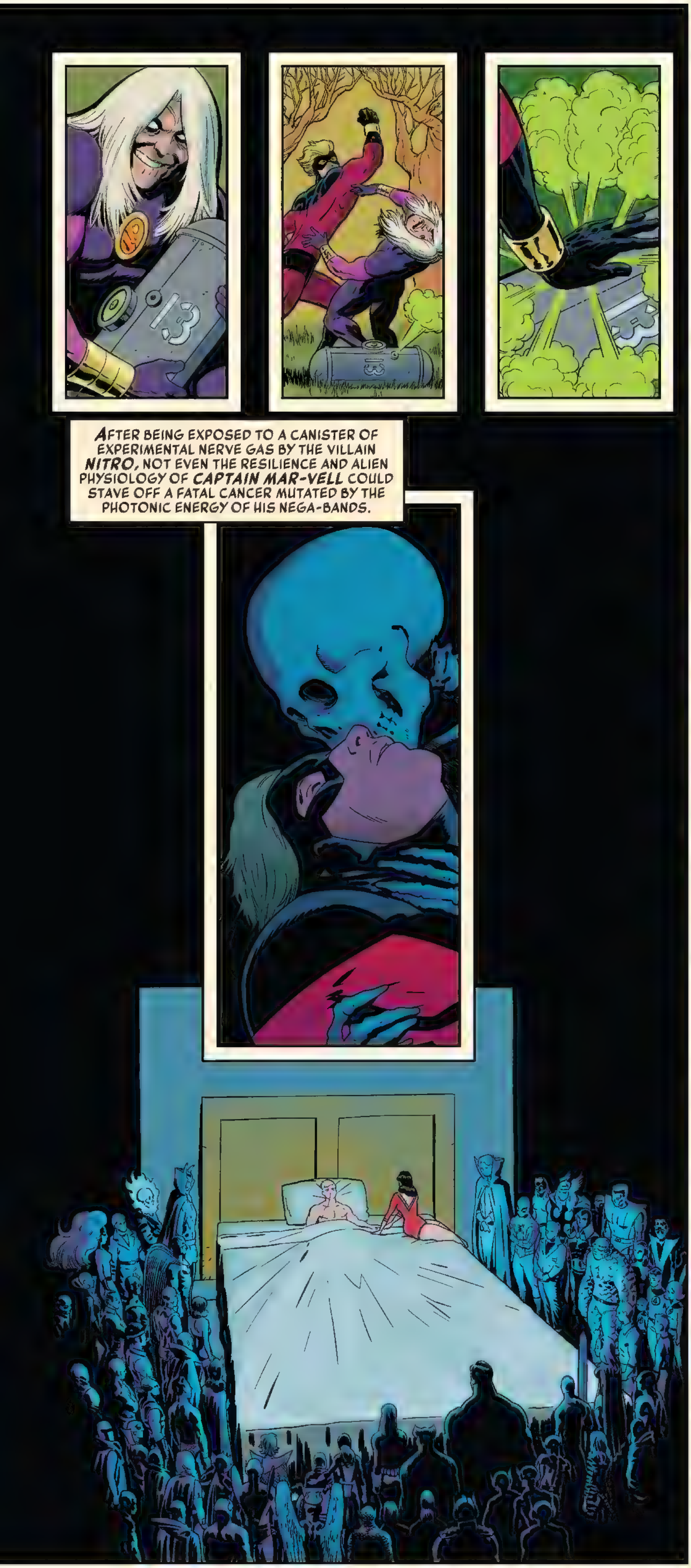
WHEN HIS COUSIN, ATTORNEY ***JENNIFER WALTERS,*** WAS GUNNED DOWN IN A MOB-RELATED SHOOTING, ***BRUCE BANNER*** SAVED HER LIFE WITH A TRANSFUSION OF HIS OWN GAMMA-IRRADIATED BLOOD.

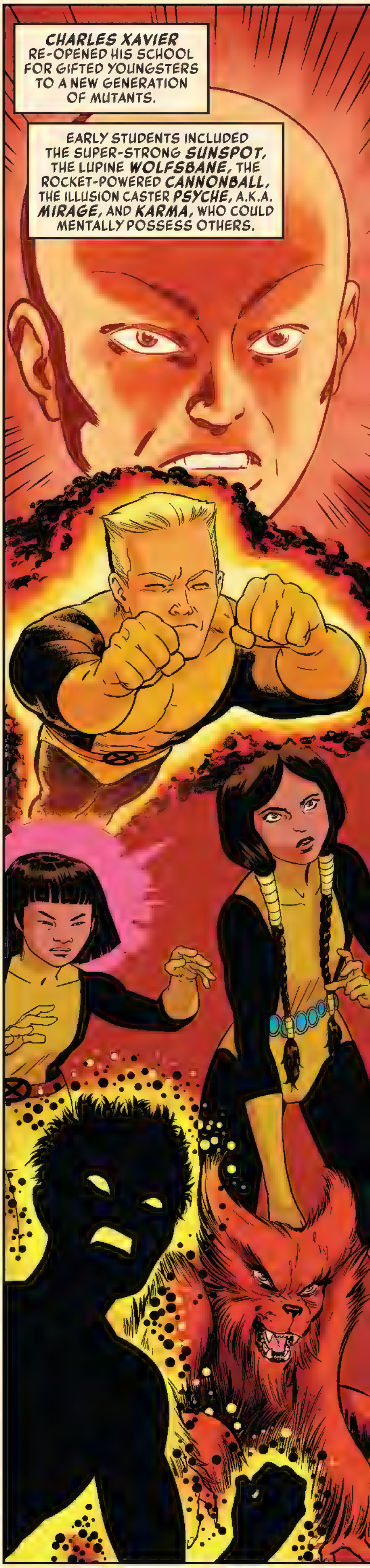
SIMILAR TO BANNER, ADRENALINE OFTEN TURNED WALTERS INTO THE MIGHTY ***SHE-HULK.***

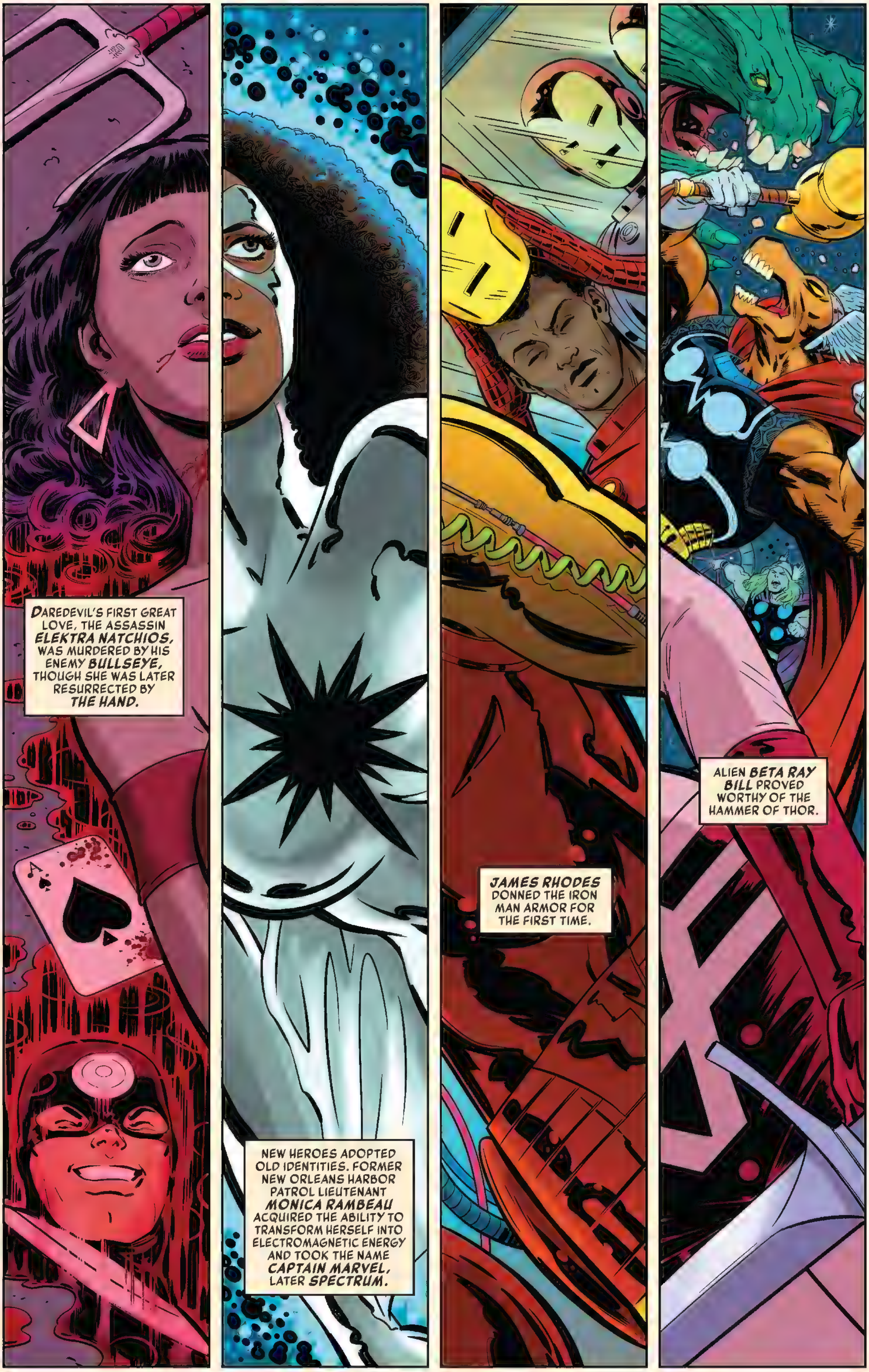
HENRY PYM BEGAN A TRAGIC DOWNWARD SPIRAL AS HIS MENTAL ILLNESS FLARED. AFTER A NEAR-CATASTROPHIC JUDGMENT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, THE AVENGERS BEGAN COURT-MARTIAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PYM, SPARKING A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN THAT CAUSED HIM TO LASH OUT AT HIS WIFE, JANET, AFTER WHICH SHE DIVORCED HIM.

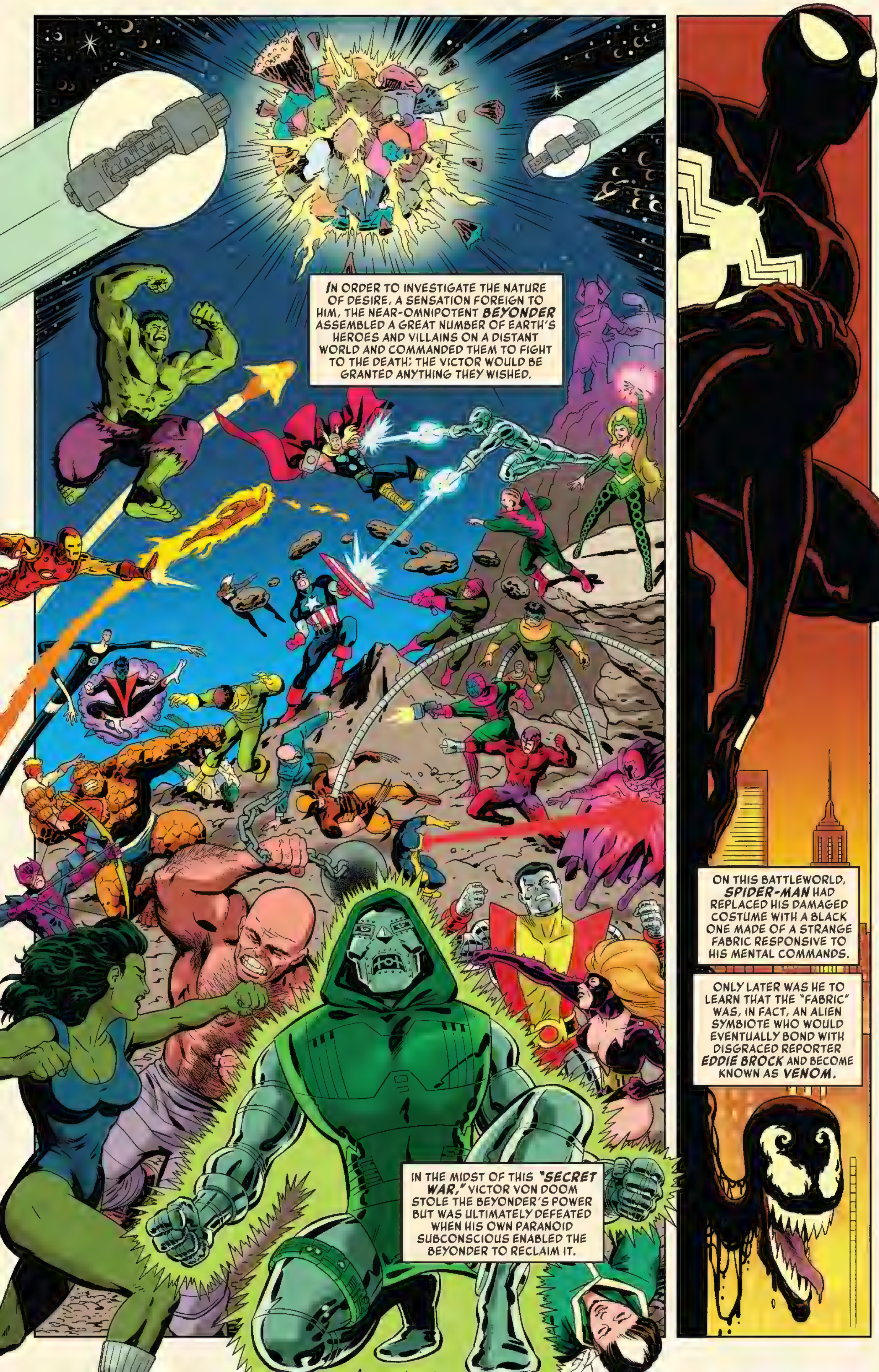
IT WOULD BE SOME TIME BEFORE PYM WOULD BE ABLE TO SUBDUE HIS INNER DEMONS.

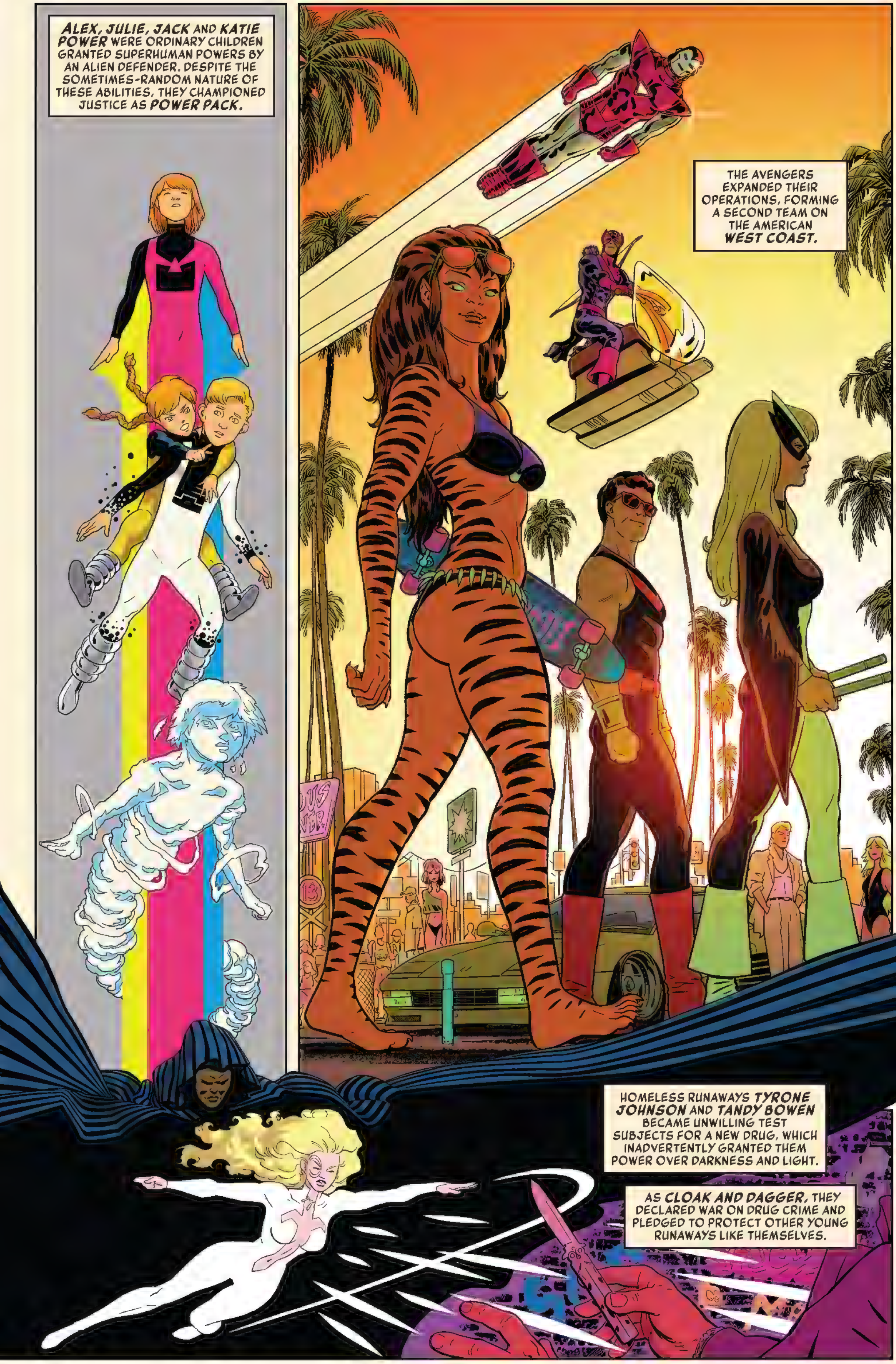
WITH THE ***INHUMANS*** GROWING INCREASINGLY ILL FROM MANMADE POLLUTION, THEY RELOCATED ATTILAN TO THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.

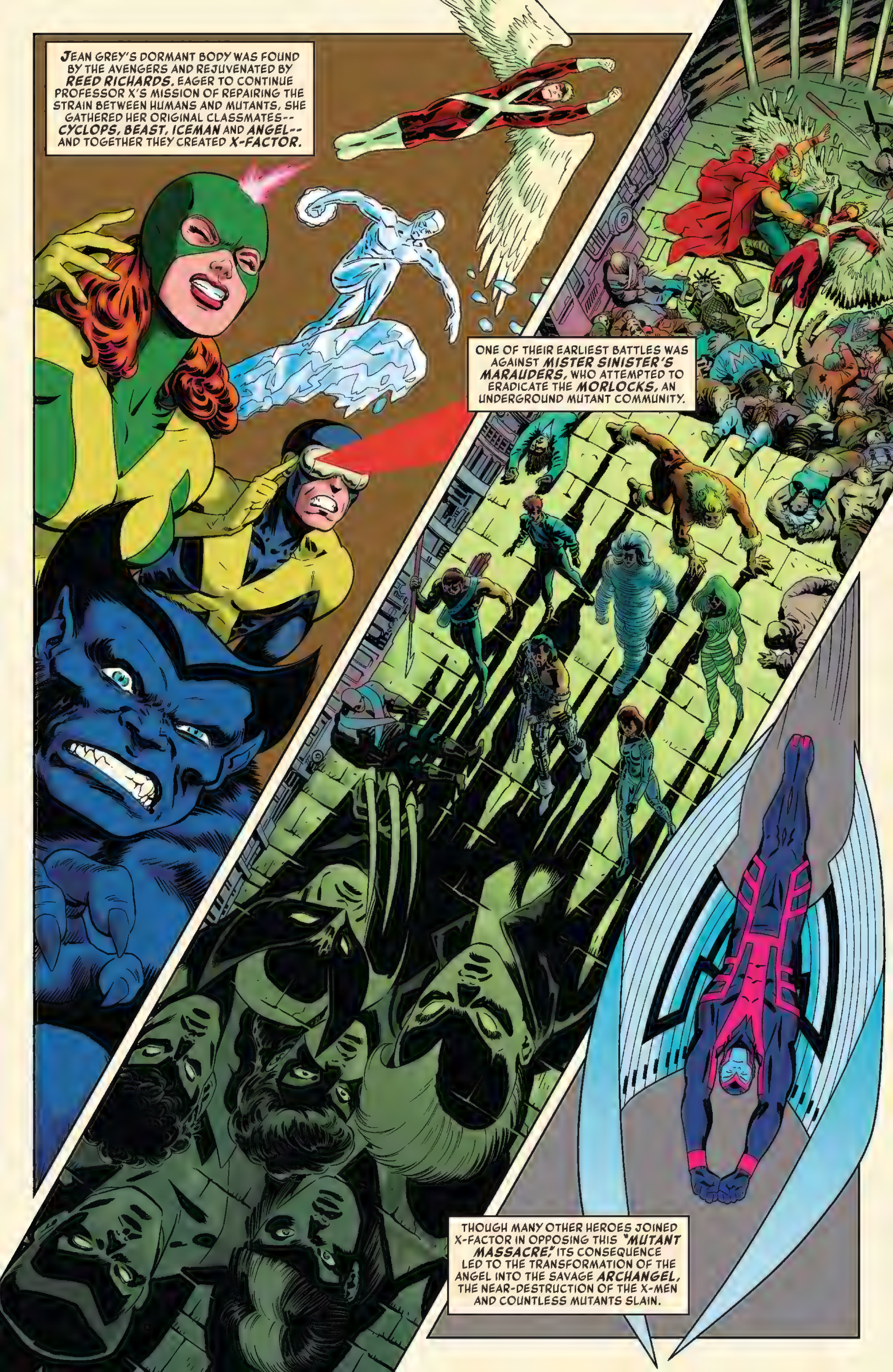

13
AFTER BEING EXPOSED TO A CANISTER OF EXPERIMENTAL NERVE GAS BY THE VILLAIN ***NITRO,*** NOT EVEN THE RESILIENCE AND ALIEN PHYSIOLOGY OF ***CAPTAIN MAR-VELL*** COULD STAVE OFF A FATAL CANCER MUTATED BY THE PHOTONIC ENERGY OF HIS NEGA-BANDS.


CHARLES XAVIER RE-OPENED HIS SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS TO A NEW GENERATION OF MUTANTS.
EARLY STUDENTS INCLUDED THE SUPER-STRONG ***SUNSPOT,*** THE LUPINE ***WOLFSBANE,*** THE ROCKET-POWERED ***CANNONBALL,*** THE ILLUSION CASTER ***PSYCHE,*** A.K.A. ***MIRAGE,*** AND ***KARMA,*** WHO COULD MENTALLY POSSESS OTHERS.


DAREDEVIL'S FIRST GREAT LOVE, THE ASSASSIN **ELEKTRA NATCHIOS,** WAS MURDERED BY HIS ENEMY **BULLSEYE,** THOUGH SHE WAS LATER RESURRECTED BY **THE HAND.**
NEW HEROES ADOPTED OLD IDENTITIES. FORMER NEW ORLEANS HARBOR PATROL LIEUTENANT **MONICA RAMBEAU** ACQUIRED THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM HERSELF INTO ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY AND TOOK THE NAME **CAPTAIN MARVEL,** LATER **SPECTRUM.**
JAMES RHODES DONNED THE IRON MAN ARMOR FOR THE FIRST TIME.
ALIEN **BETA RAY BILL** PROVED WORTHY OF THE HAMMER OF THOR.


IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE THE NATURE OF DESIRE, A SENSATION FOREIGN TO HIM, THE NEAR-OMNIPOTENT **BEYONDER** ASSEMBLED A GREAT NUMBER OF EARTH'S HEROES AND VILLAINS ON A DISTANT WORLD AND COMMANDED THEM TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH; THE VICTOR WOULD BE GRANTED ANYTHING THEY WISHED.
IN THE MIDST OF THIS **"SECRET WAR,"** VICTOR VON DOOM STOLE THE BEYONDER'S POWER BUT WAS ULTIMATELY DEFEATED WHEN HIS OWN PARANOID SUBCONSCIOUS ENABLED THE BEYONDER TO RECLAIM IT.
ON THIS BATTLEWORLD, **SPIDER-MAN** HAD REPLACED HIS DAMAGED COSTUME WITH A BLACK ONE MADE OF A STRANGE FABRIC RESPONSIVE TO HIS MENTAL COMMANDS.
ONLY LATER WAS HE TO LEARN THAT THE "FABRIC" WAS, IN FACT, AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE WHO WOULD EVENTUALLY BOND WITH DISGRACED REPORTER **EDDIE BROCK** AND BECOME KNOWN AS **VENOM.**

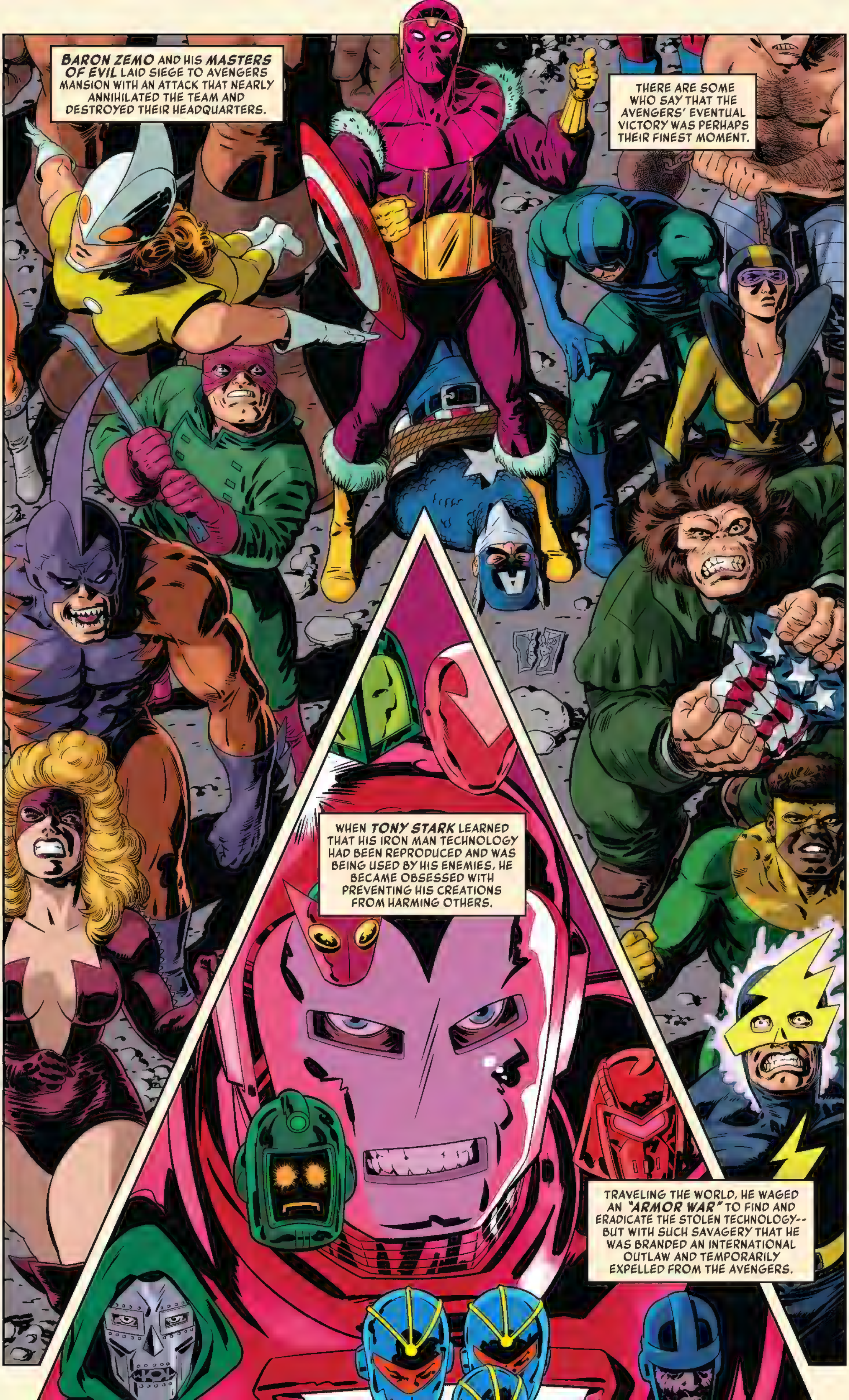

ALEX, JULIE, JACK AND **KATIE POWER** WERE ORDINARY CHILDREN GRANTED SUPERHUMAN POWERS BY AN ALIEN DEFENDER. DESPITE THE SOMETIMES-RANDOM NATURE OF THESE ABILITIES, THEY CHAMPIONED JUSTICE AS **POWER PACK.**
THE AVENGERS EXPANDED THEIR OPERATIONS, FORMING A SECOND TEAM ON THE AMERICAN **WEST COAST.**
13
HOMELESS RUNAWAYS **TYRONE JOHNSON** AND **TANDY BOWEN** BECAME UNWILLING TEST SUBJECTS FOR A NEW DRUG, WHICH INADVERTENTLY GRANTED THEM POWER OVER DARKNESS AND LIGHT.
AS **CLOAK AND DAGGER,** THEY DECLARED WAR ON DRUG CRIME AND PLEDGED TO PROTECT OTHER YOUNG RUNAWAYS LIKE THEMSELVES.

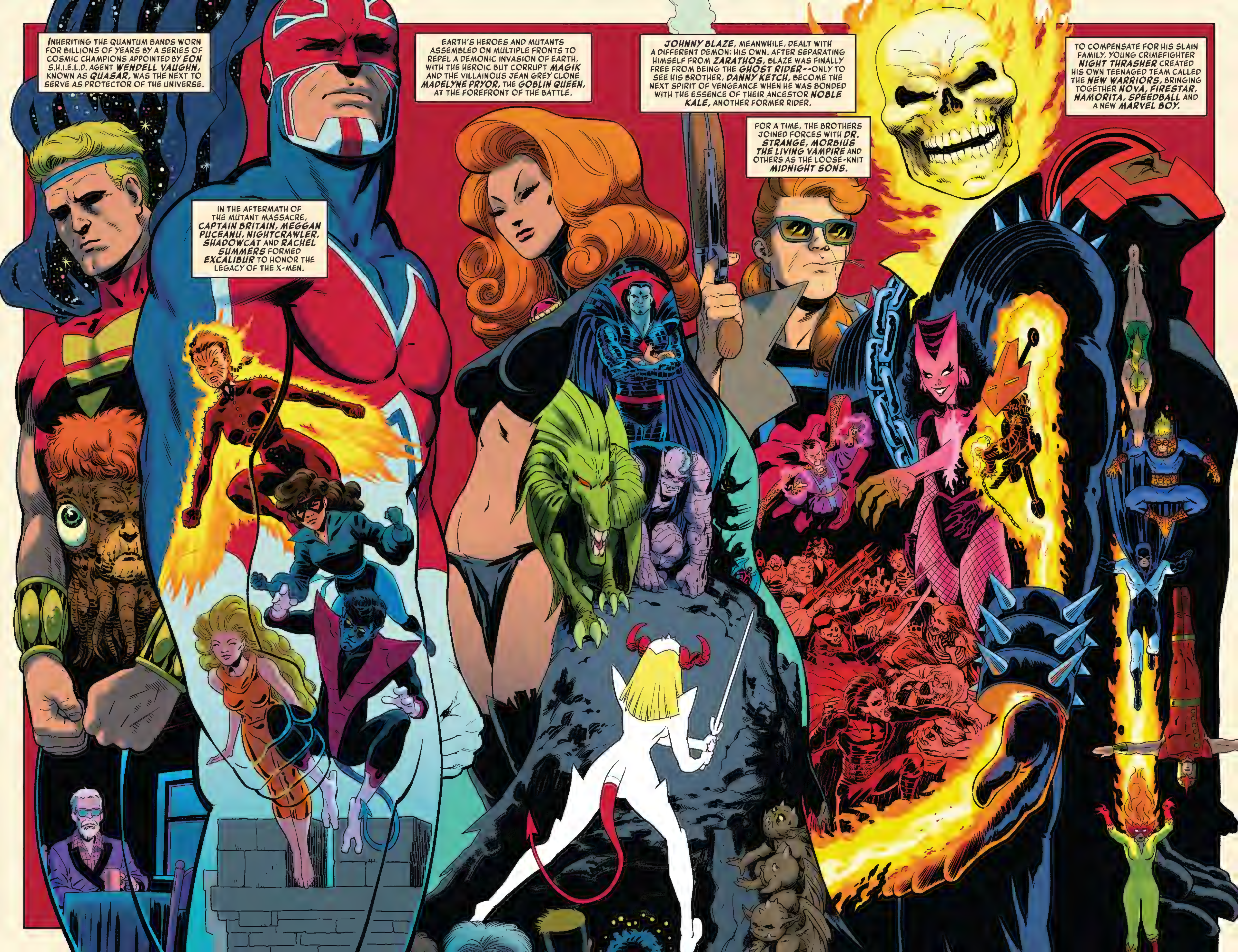


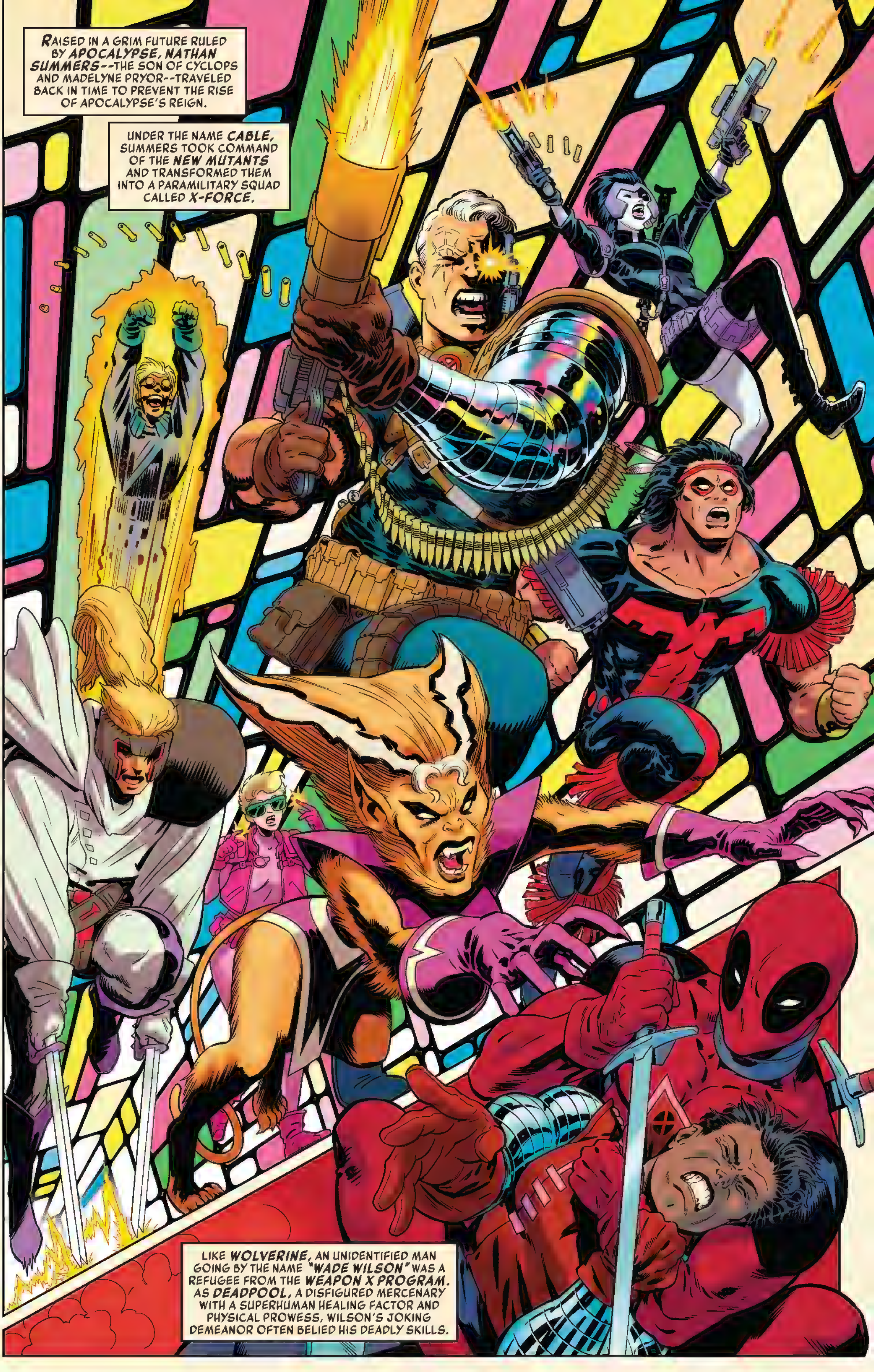
JEAN GREY'S DORMANT BODY WAS FOUND BY THE AVENGERS AND REJUVENATED BY ***REED RICHARDS.*** EAGER TO CONTINUE PROFESSOR X'S MISSION OF REPAIRING THE STRAIN BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS, SHE GATHERED HER ORIGINAL CLASSMATES-- ***CYCLOPS, BEAST, ICEMAN*** AND ***ANGEL--*** AND TOGETHER THEY CREATED ***X-FACTOR.***

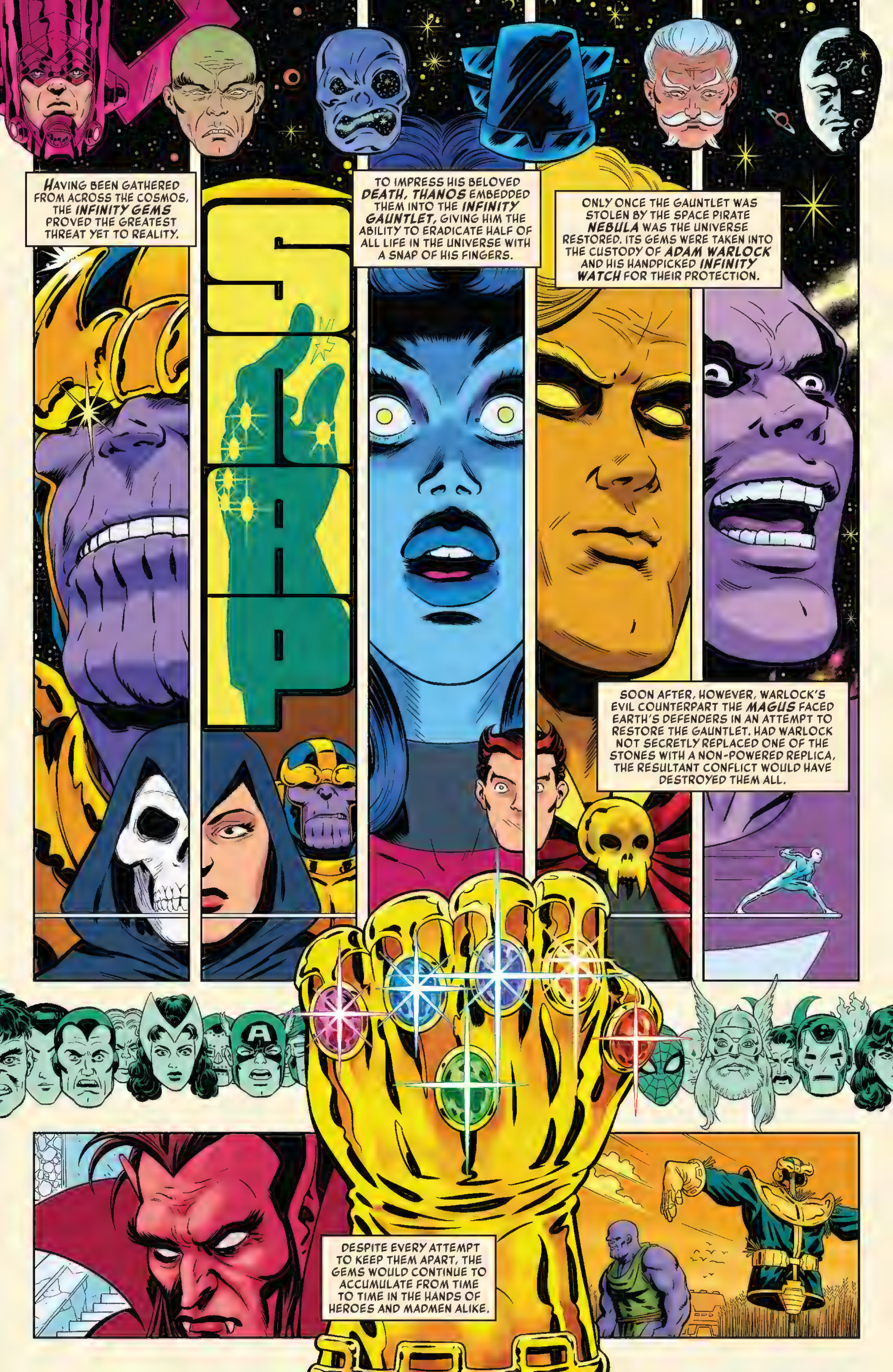
ONE OF THEIR EARLIEST BATTLES WAS AGAINST ***MISTER SINISTER'S MARAUDERS,*** WHO ATTEMPTED TO ERADICATE THE ***MORLOCKS,*** AN UNDERGROUND MUTANT COMMUNITY.

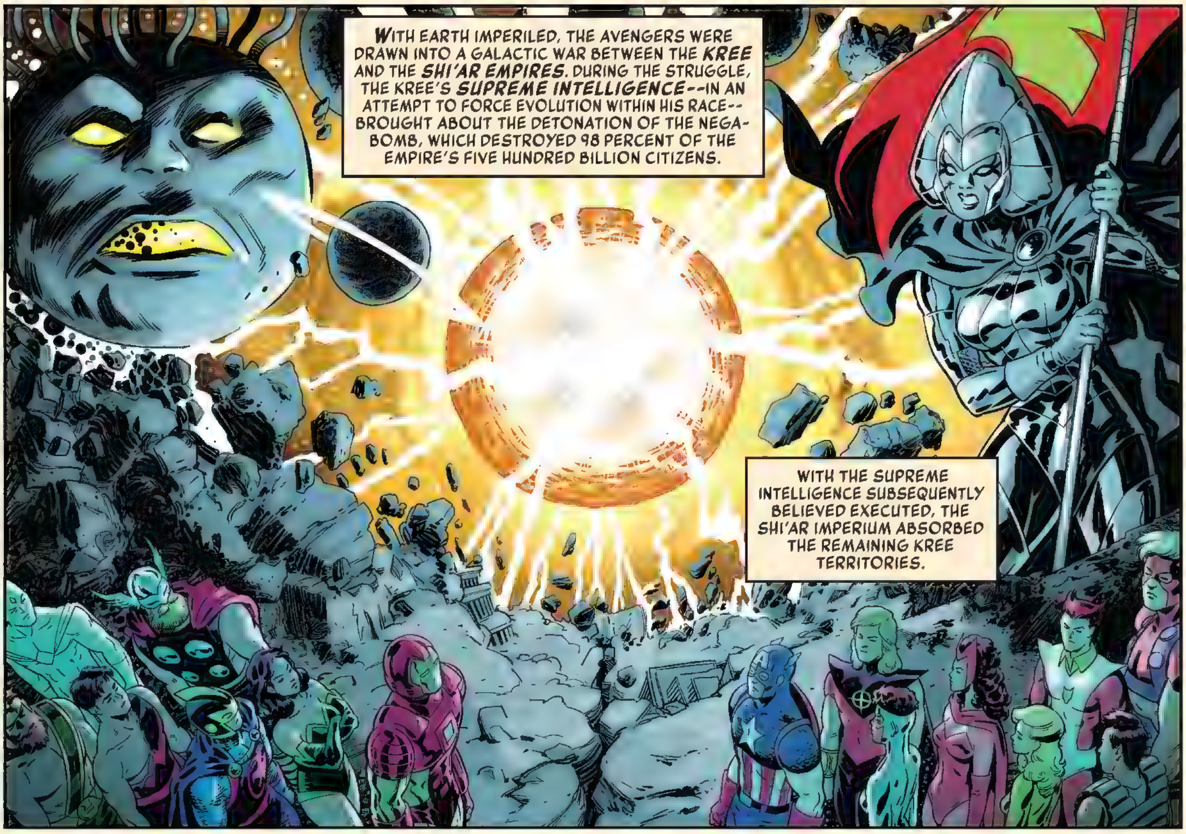
THOUGH MANY OTHER HEROES JOINED X-FACTOR IN OPPOSING THIS ***"MUTANT MASSACRE,"*** ITS CONSEQUENCE LED TO THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ANGEL INTO THE SAVAGE ***ARCHANGEL,*** THE NEAR-DESTRUCTION OF THE X-MEN AND COUNTLESS MUTANTS SLAIN.


BARON ZEMO AND HIS MASTERS OF EVIL LAID SIEGE TO AVENGERS MANSION WITH AN ATTACK THAT NEARLY ANNIHILATED THE TEAM AND DESTROYED THEIR HEADQUARTERS.
THERE ARE SOME WHO SAY THAT THE AVENGERS' EVENTUAL VICTORY WAS PERHAPS THEIR FINEST MOMENT.
WHEN TONY STARK LEARNED THAT HIS IRON MAN TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN REPRODUCED AND WAS BEING USED BY HIS ENEMIES, HE BECAME OBSESSED WITH PREVENTING HIS CREATIONS FROM HARMING OTHERS.
TRAVELING THE WORLD, HE WAGED AN "ARMOR WAR" TO FIND AND ERADICATE THE STOLEN TECHNOLOGY-- BUT WITH SUCH SAVAGERY THAT HE WAS BRANDED AN INTERNATIONAL OUTLAW AND TEMPORARILY EXPELLED FROM THE AVENGERS.


INHERITING THE QUANTUM BANDS WORN FOR BILLIONS OF YEARS BY A SERIES OF COSMIC CHAMPIONS APPOINTED BY **EON** S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT **WENDELL VAUGHN**, KNOWN AS **QUASAR**, WAS THE NEXT TO SERVE AS PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.
IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MUTANT MASSACRE, **CAPTAIN BRITAIN, MEGGAN PUCEANU, NIGHTCRAWLER, SHADOWCAT** AND **RACHEL SUMMERS** FORMED **EXCALIBUR** TO HONOR THE LEGACY OF THE X-MEN.
EARTH'S HEROES AND MUTANTS ASSEMBLED ON MULTIPLE FRONTS TO REPEL A DEMONIC INVASION OF EARTH, WITH THE HEROIC BUT CORRUPT **MAGIK** AND THE VILLAINOUS JEAN GREY CLONE **MADELYNE PRYOR**, THE **GOBLIN QUEEN**, AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE BATTLE.
JOHNNY BLAZE, MEANWHILE, DEALT WITH A DIFFERENT DEMON: HIS OWN. AFTER SEPARATING HIMSELF FROM **ZARATHOS**, BLAZE WAS FINALLY FREE FROM BEING THE **GHOST RIDER**--ONLY TO SEE HIS BROTHER, **DANNY KETCH**, BECOME THE NEXT SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE WHEN HE WAS BONDED WITH THE ESSENCE OF THEIR ANCESTOR **NOBLE KALE**, ANOTHER FORMER RIDER.
FOR A TIME, THE BROTHERS JOINED FORCES WITH **DR. STRANGE, MORBIUS THE LIVING VAMPIRE** AND OTHERS AS THE LOOSE-KNIT **MIDNIGHT SONS**.
TO COMPENSATE FOR HIS SLAIN FAMILY, YOUNG CRIMEFIGHTER **NIGHT THRASHER** CREATED HIS OWN TEENAGED TEAM CALLED THE **NEW WARRIORS**, BRINGING TOGETHER **NOVA, FIRESTAR, NAMORITA, SPEEDBALL** AND A NEW **MARVEL BOY**.

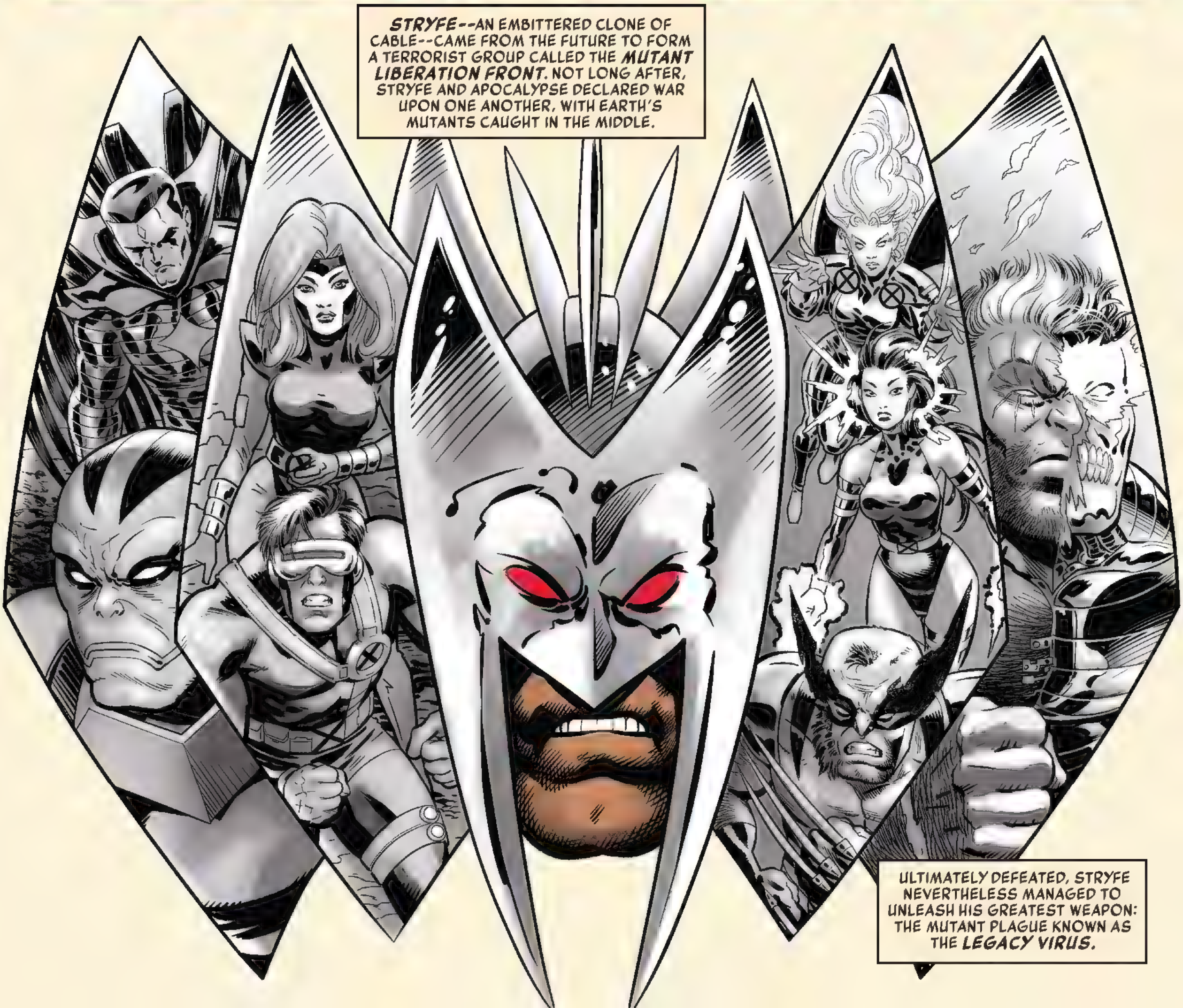

RAISED IN A GRIM FUTURE RULED BY **APOCALYPSE, NATHAN SUMMERS**--THE SON OF CYCLOPS AND MADELYNE PRYOR--TRAVELED BACK IN TIME TO PREVENT THE RISE OF APOCALYPSE'S REIGN.
UNDER THE NAME **CABLE**, SUMMERS TOOK COMMAND OF THE **NEW MUTANTS** AND TRANSFORMED THEM INTO A PARAMILITARY SQUAD CALLED **X-FORCE**.
LIKE **WOLVERINE**, AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN GOING BY THE NAME **"WADE WILSON"** WAS A REFUGEE FROM THE **WEAPON X PROGRAM**. AS **DEADPOOL**, A DISFIGURED MERCENARY WITH A SUPERHUMAN HEALING FACTOR AND PHYSICAL PROWESS, WILSON'S JOKING DEMEANOR OFTEN BELIED HIS DEADLY SKILLS.


HAVING BEEN GATHERED FROM ACROSS THE COSMOS, THE *INFINITY GEMS* PROVED THE GREATEST THREAT YET TO REALITY.
SNAP
TO IMPRESS HIS BELOVED *DEATH, THANOS* EMBEDDED THEM INTO THE *INFINITY GAUNTLET,* GIVING HIM THE ABILITY TO ERADICATE HALF OF ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE WITH A SNAP OF HIS FINGERS.
ONLY ONCE THE GAUNTLET WAS STOLEN BY THE SPACE PIRATE *NEBULA* WAS THE UNIVERSE RESTORED. ITS GEMS WERE TAKEN INTO THE CUSTODY OF *ADAM WARLOCK* AND HIS HANDPICKED *INFINITY WATCH* FOR THEIR PROTECTION.
SOON AFTER, HOWEVER, WARLOCK'S EVIL COUNTERPART THE *MAGUS* FACED EARTH'S DEFENDERS IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESTORE THE GAUNTLET. HAD WARLOCK NOT SECRETLY REPLACED ONE OF THE STONES WITH A NON-POWERED REPLICA, THE RESULTANT CONFLICT WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM ALL.
DESPITE EVERY ATTEMPT TO KEEP THEM APART, THE GEMS WOULD CONTINUE TO ACCUMULATE FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE HANDS OF HEROES AND MADMEN ALIKE.



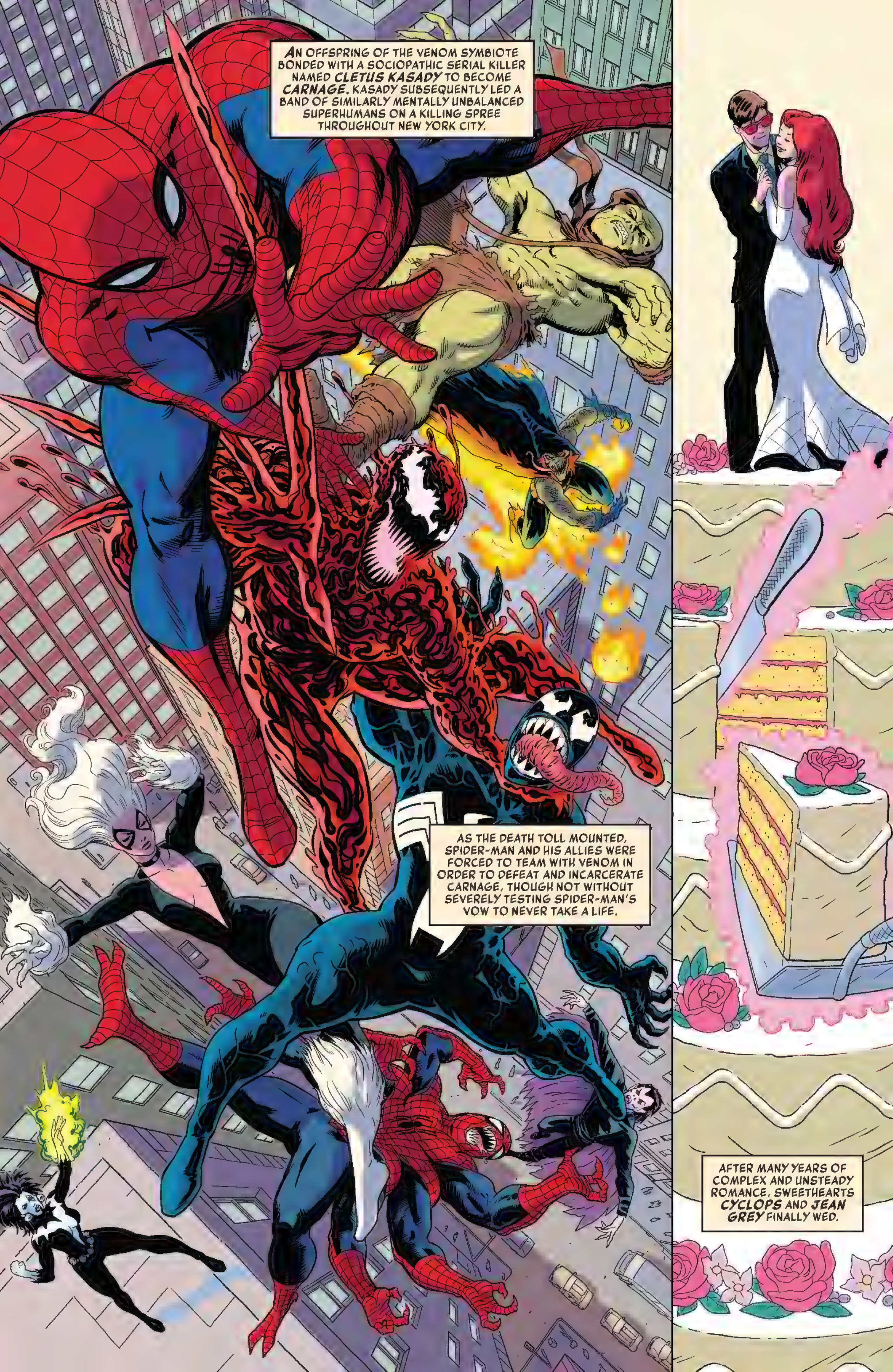
WITH EARTH IMPERILED, THE AVENGERS WERE DRAWN INTO A GALACTIC WAR BETWEEN THE ***KREE*** AND THE ***SHI'AR EMPIRES.*** DURING THE STRUGGLE, THE KREE'S ***SUPREME INTELLIGENCE***--IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORCE EVOLUTION WITHIN HIS RACE--BROUGHT ABOUT THE DETONATION OF THE NEGA-BOMB, WHICH DESTROYED 98 PERCENT OF THE EMPIRE'S FIVE HUNDRED BILLION CITIZENS.

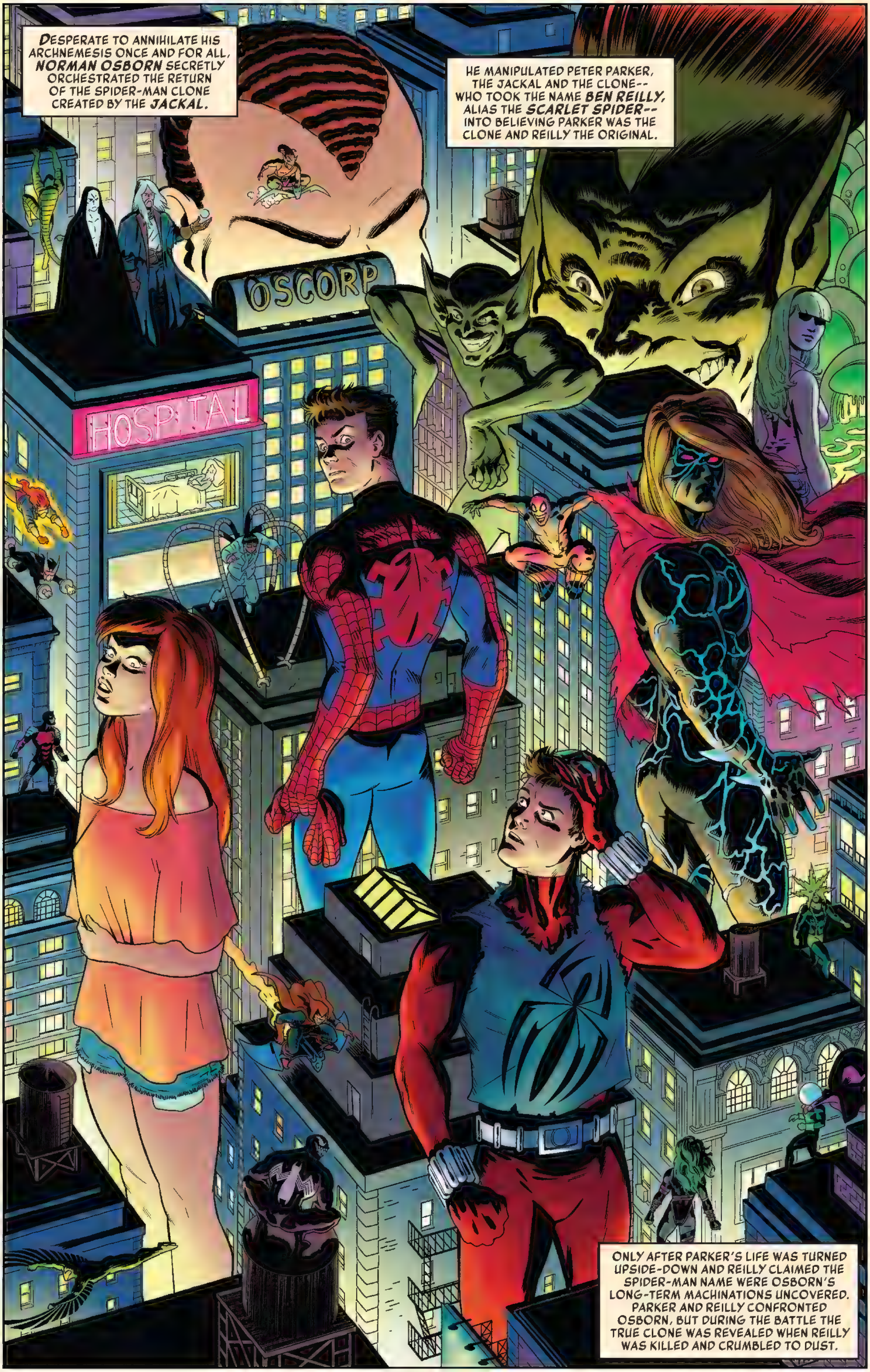
WITH THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE SUBSEQUENTLY BELIEVED EXECUTED, THE SHI'AR IMPERIUM ABSORBED THE REMAINING KREE TERRITORIES.

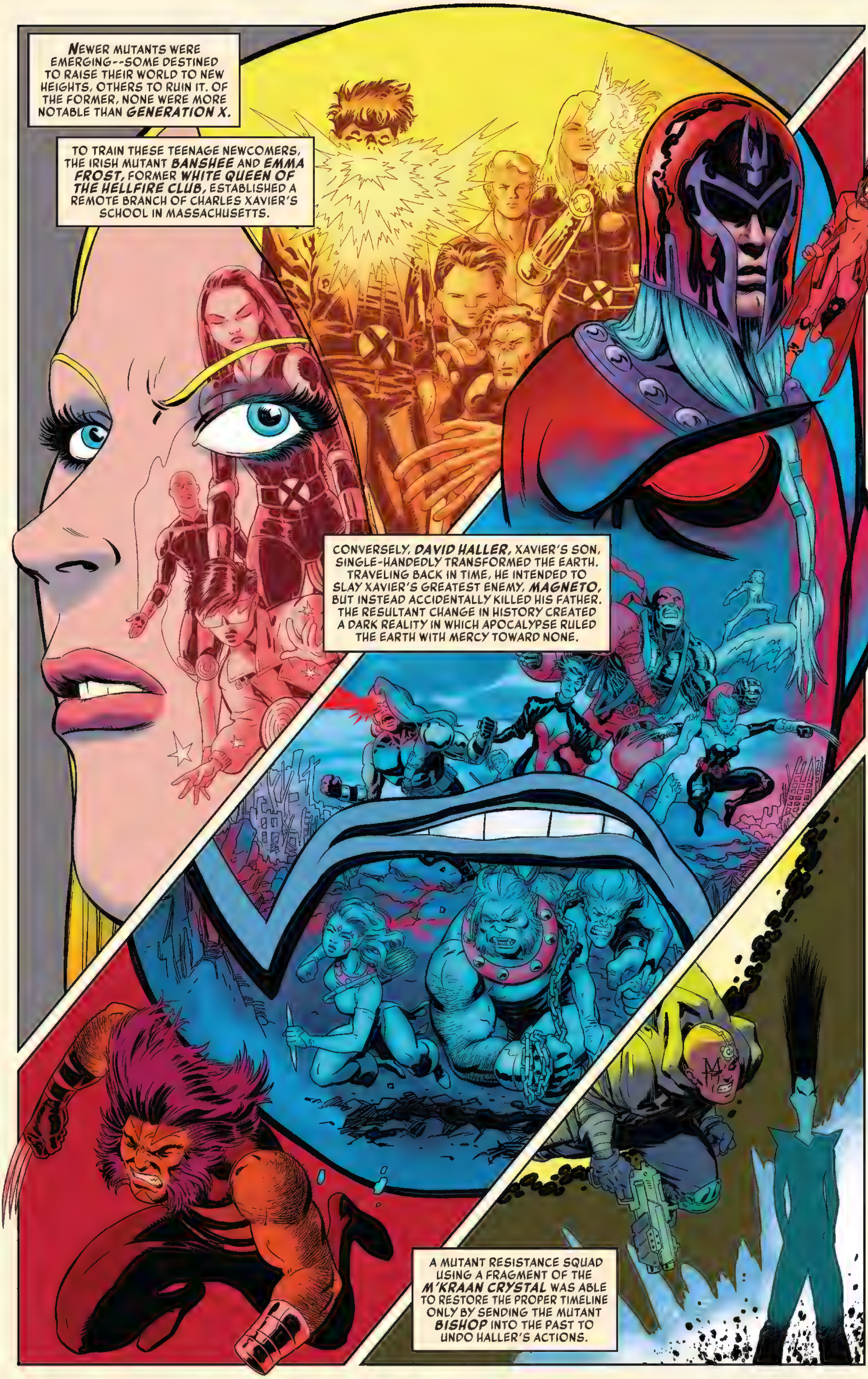


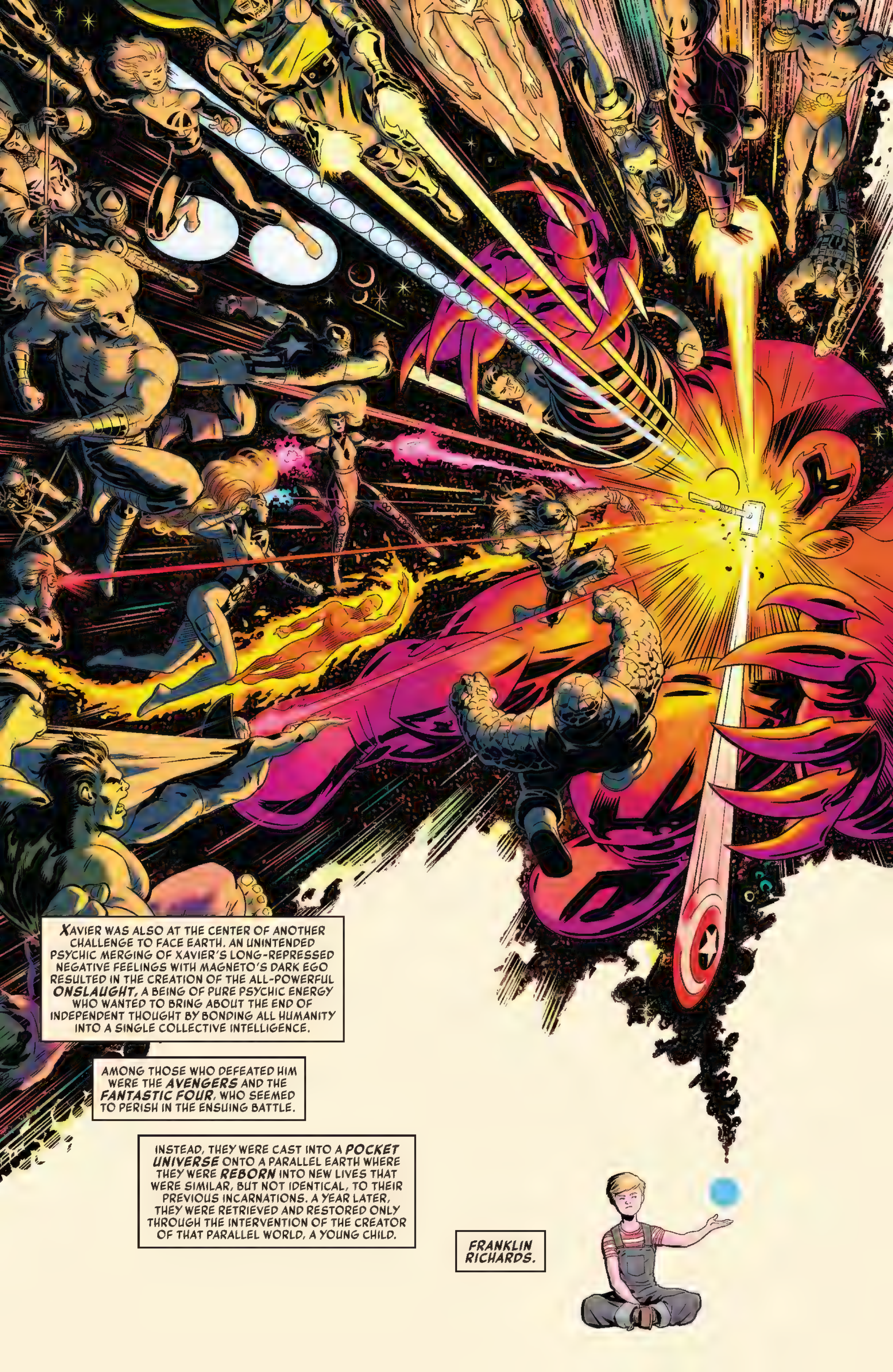
STRYFE--AN EMBITTERED CLONE OF CABLE--CAME FROM THE FUTURE TO FORM A TERRORIST GROUP CALLED THE ***MUTANT LIBERATION FRONT.*** NOT LONG AFTER, STRYFE AND APOCALYPSE DECLARED WAR UPON ONE ANOTHER, WITH EARTH'S MUTANTS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE.

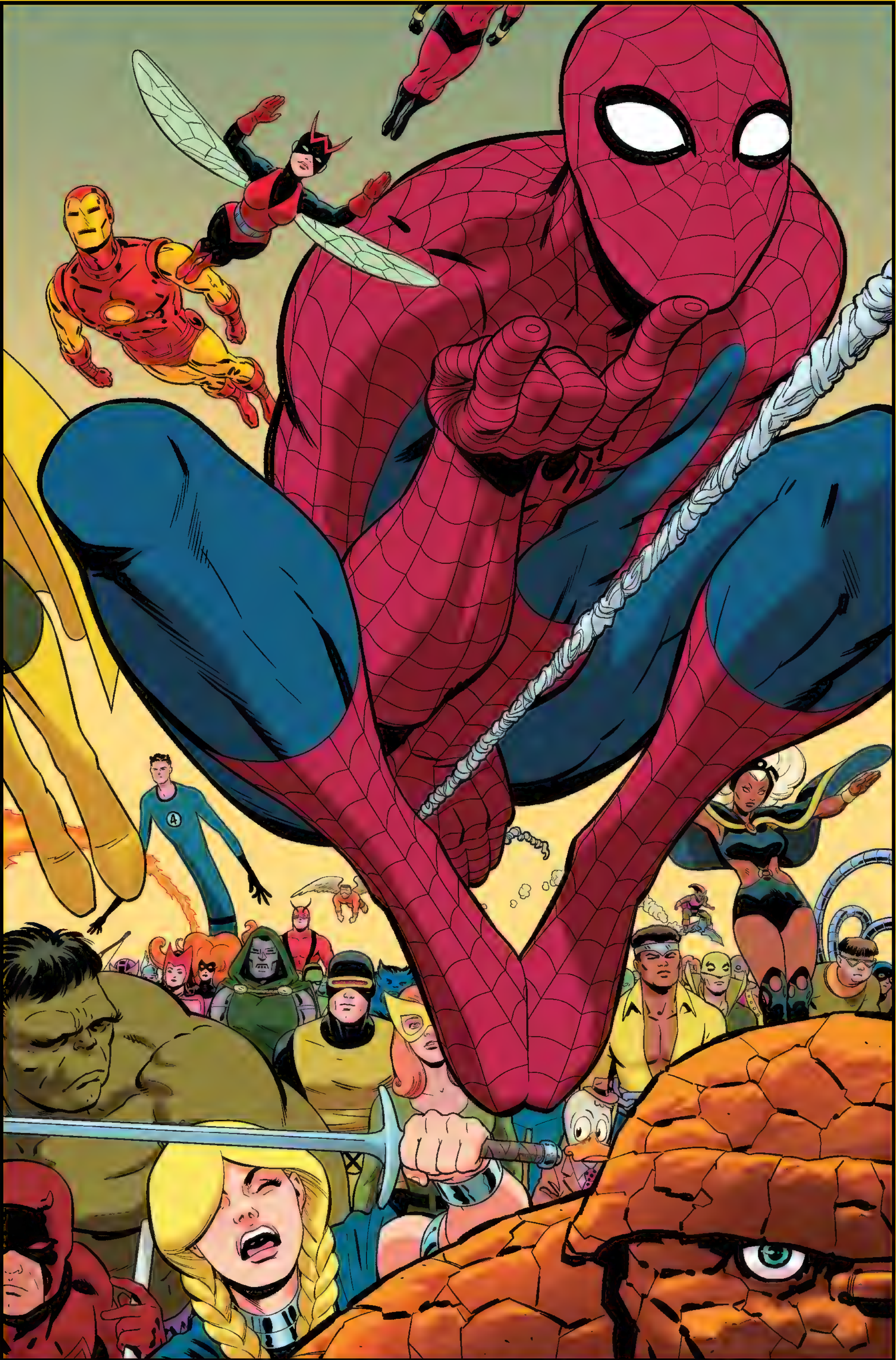
ULTIMATELY DEFEATED, STRYFE NEVERTHELESS MANAGED TO UNLEASH HIS GREATEST WEAPON: THE MUTANT PLAGUE KNOWN AS THE ***LEGACY VIRUS.***


AN OFFSPRING OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH A SOCIOPATHIC SERIAL KILLER NAMED CLETUS KASADY TO BECOME CARNAGE. KASADY SUBSEQUENTLY LED A BAND OF SIMILARLY MENTALLY UNBALANCED SUPERHUMANS ON A KILLING SPREE THROUGHOUT NEW YORK CITY.
AS THE DEATH TOLL MOUNTED, SPIDER-MAN AND HIS ALLIES WERE FORCED TO TEAM WITH VENOM IN ORDER TO DEFEAT AND INCARCERATE CARNAGE, THOUGH NOT WITHOUT SEVERELY TESTING SPIDER-MAN'S VOW TO NEVER TAKE A LIFE.
AFTER MANY YEARS OF COMPLEX AND UNSTEADY ROMANCE, SWEETHEARTS CYCLOPS AND JEAN GREY FINALLY WED.


DESPERATE TO ANNIHILATE HIS ARCHNEMESIS ONCE AND FOR ALL, **NORMAN OSBORN** SECRETLY ORCHESTRATED THE RETURN OF THE SPIDER-MAN CLONE CREATED BY THE ***JACKAL.***
HE MANIPULATED PETER PARKER, THE JACKAL AND THE CLONE--WHO TOOK THE NAME ***BEN REILLY,*** ALIAS THE ***SCARLET SPIDER***--INTO BELIEVING PARKER WAS THE CLONE AND REILLY THE ORIGINAL.
OSCORP
HOSPITAL
ONLY AFTER PARKER'S LIFE WAS TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN AND REILLY CLAIMED THE SPIDER-MAN NAME WERE OSBORN'S LONG-TERM MACHINATIONS UNCOVERED. PARKER AND REILLY CONFRONTED OSBORN, BUT DURING THE BATTLE THE TRUE CLONE WAS REVEALED WHEN REILLY WAS KILLED AND CRUMBLED TO DUST.


NEWER MUTANTS WERE EMERGING--SOME DESTINED TO RAISE THEIR WORLD TO NEW HEIGHTS, OTHERS TO RUIN IT. OF THE FORMER, NONE WERE MORE NOTABLE THAN **GENERATION X.**
TO TRAIN THESE TEENAGE NEWCOMERS, THE IRISH MUTANT **BANSHEE** AND **EMMA FROST,** FORMER **WHITE QUEEN OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB,** ESTABLISHED A REMOTE BRANCH OF CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL IN MASSACHUSETTS.
CONVERSELY, **DAVID HALLER,** XAVIER'S SON, SINGLE-HANDEDLY TRANSFORMED THE EARTH. TRAVELING BACK IN TIME, HE INTENDED TO SLAY XAVIER'S GREATEST ENEMY, **MAGNETO,** BUT INSTEAD ACCIDENTALLY KILLED HIS FATHER. THE RESULTANT CHANGE IN HISTORY CREATED A DARK REALITY IN WHICH APOCALYPSE RULED THE EARTH WITH MERCY TOWARD NONE.
A MUTANT RESISTANCE SQUAD USING A FRAGMENT OF THE **M'KRAAN CRYSTAL** WAS ABLE TO RESTORE THE PROPER TIMELINE ONLY BY SENDING THE MUTANT **BISHOP** INTO THE PAST TO UNDO HALLER'S ACTIONS.

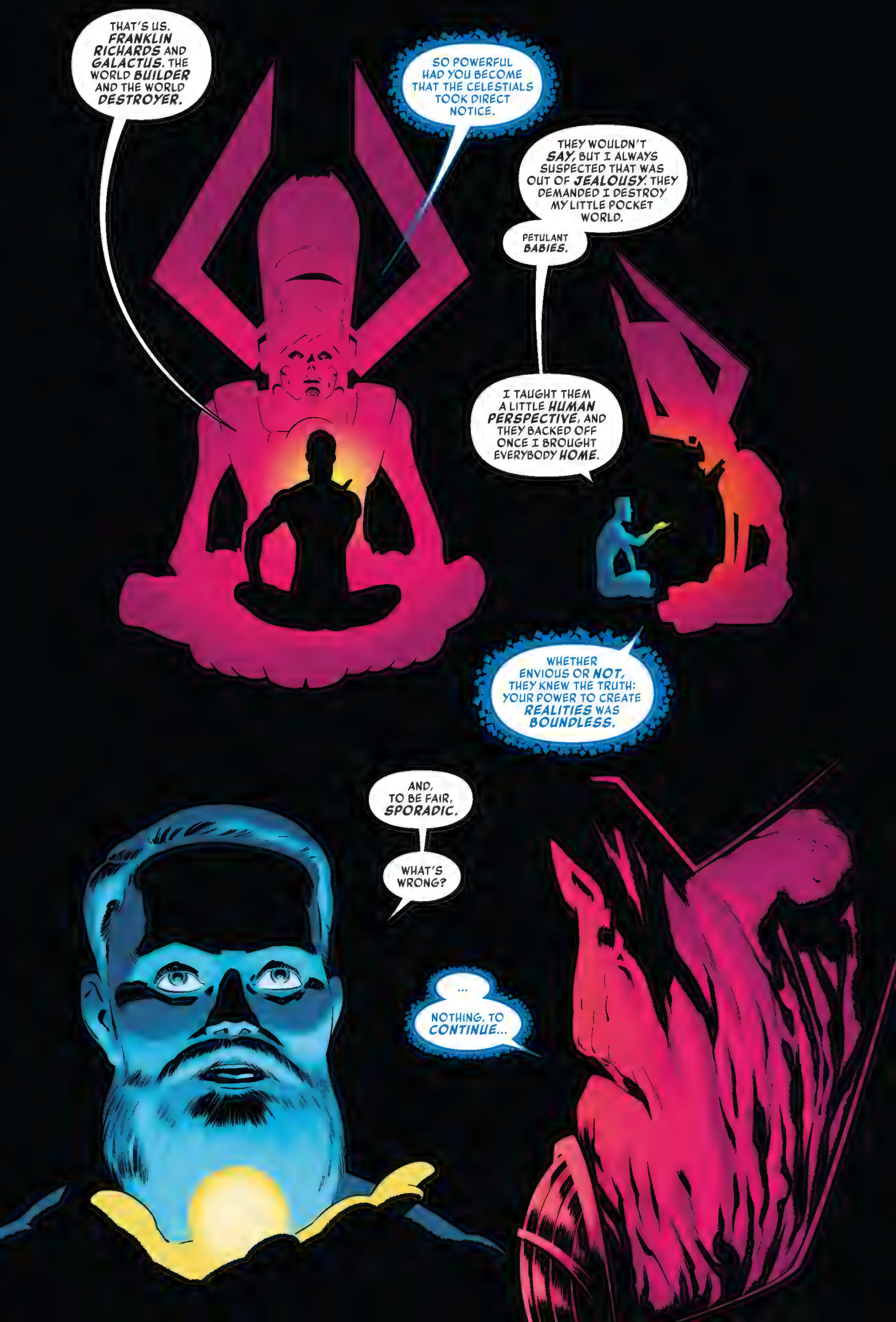

XAVIER WAS ALSO AT THE CENTER OF ANOTHER CHALLENGE TO FACE EARTH. AN UNINTENDED PSYCHIC MERGING OF XAVIER'S LONG-REPRESSED NEGATIVE FEELINGS WITH MAGNETO'S DARK EGO RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF THE ALL-POWERFUL ***ONSLAUGHT,*** A BEING OF PURE PSYCHIC ENERGY WHO WANTED TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF INDEPENDENT THOUGHT BY BONDING ALL HUMANITY INTO A SINGLE COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE.
AMONG THOSE WHO DEFEATED HIM WERE THE ***AVENGERS*** AND THE ***FANTASTIC FOUR,*** WHO SEEMED TO PERISH IN THE ENSUING BATTLE.
INSTEAD, THEY WERE CAST INTO A ***POCKET UNIVERSE*** ONTO A PARALLEL EARTH WHERE THEY WERE ***REBORN*** INTO NEW LIVES THAT WERE SIMILAR, BUT NOT IDENTICAL, TO THEIR PREVIOUS INCARNATIONS. A YEAR LATER, THEY WERE RETRIEVED AND RESTORED ONLY THROUGH THE INTERVENTION OF THE CREATOR OF THAT PARALLEL WORLD, A YOUNG CHILD.
FRANKLIN RICHARDS.

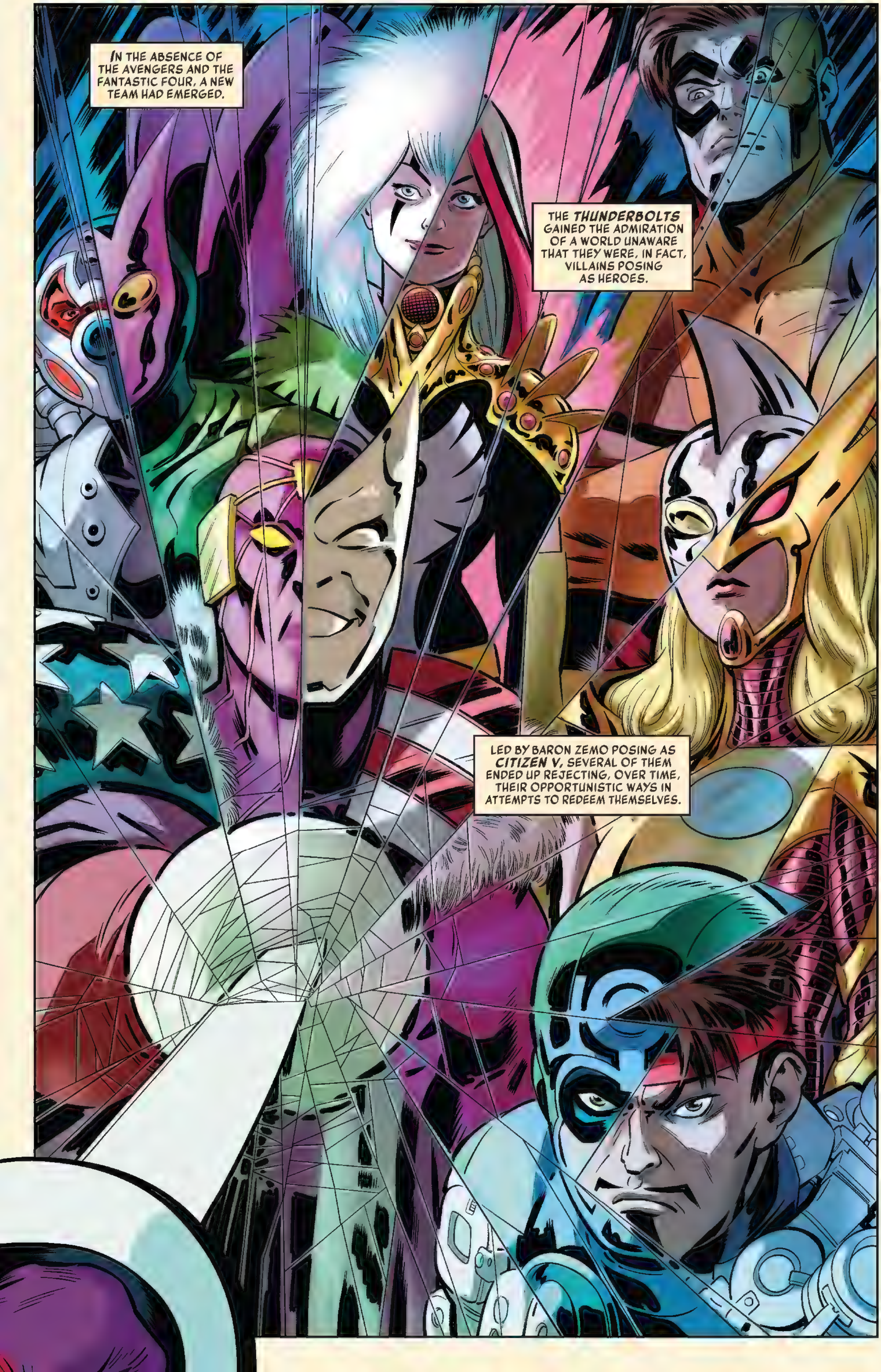


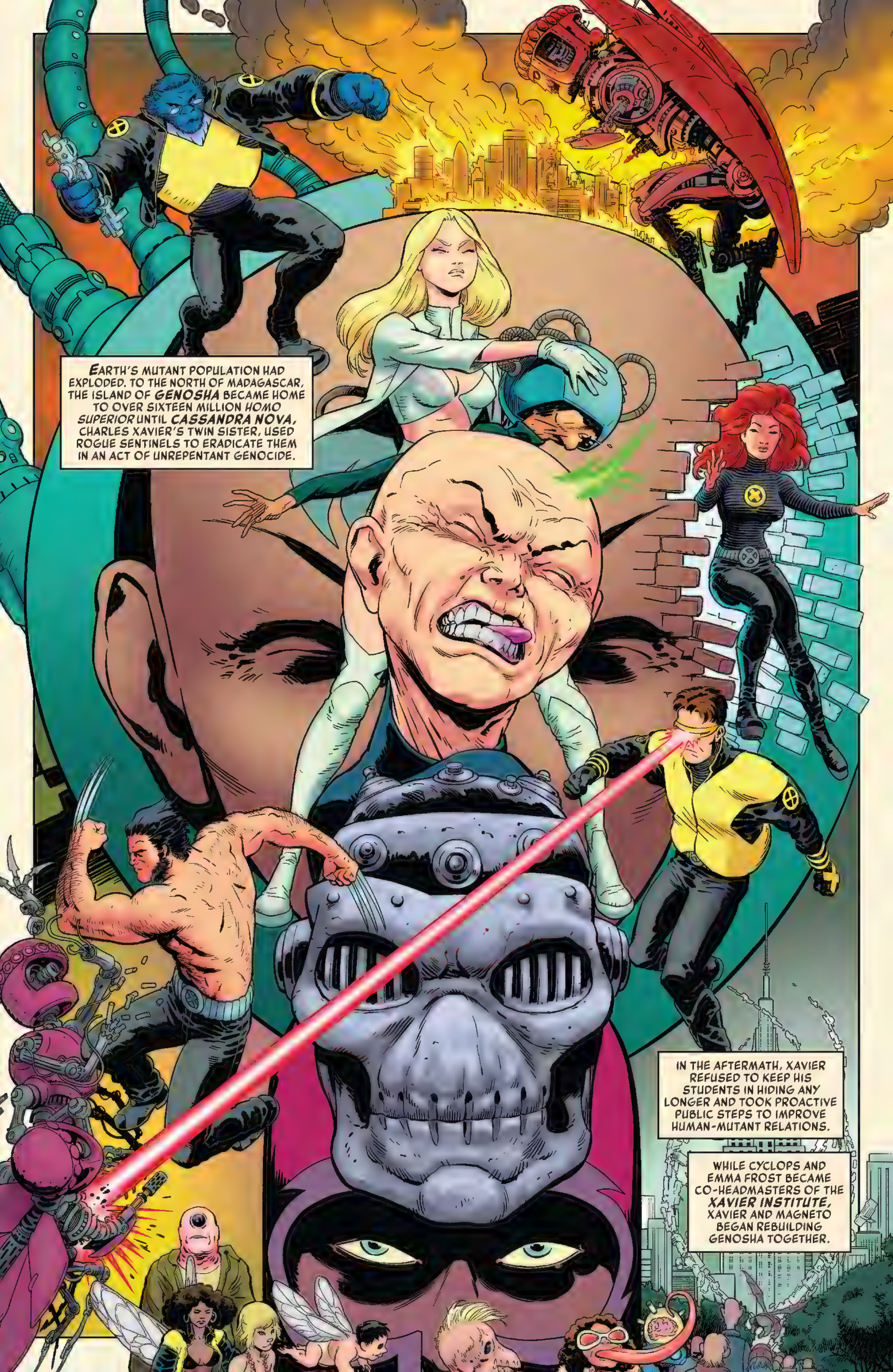
#3 VARIANT BY **JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ** & **ÁLVARO LÓPEZ**

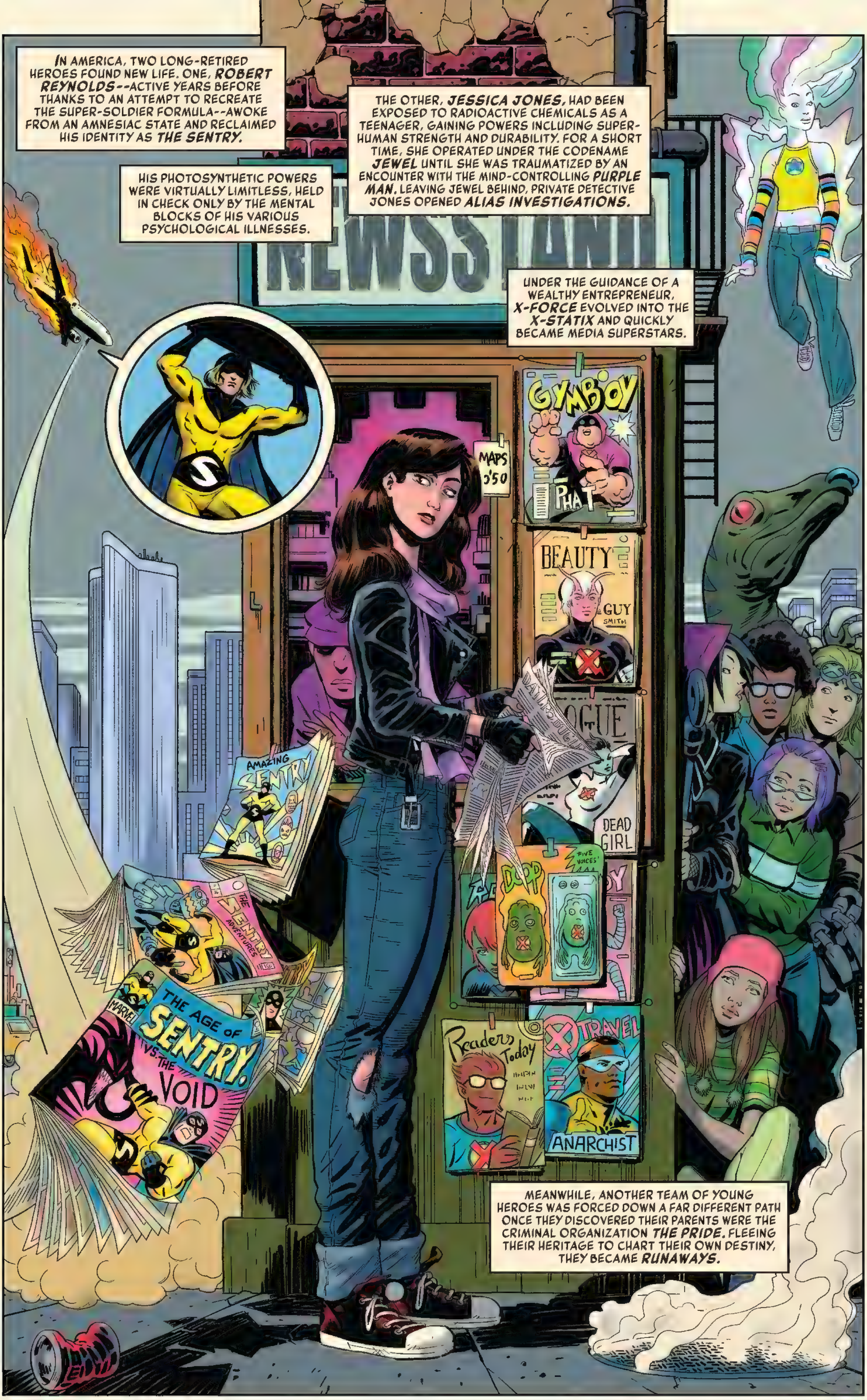
5

McNIVEN
FARMER


THAT'S US. **FRANKLIN RICHARDS** AND **GALACTUS.** THE WORLD **BUILDER** AND THE WORLD **DESTROYER.**
SO POWERFUL HAD YOU BECOME THAT THE CELESTIALS TOOK DIRECT NOTICE.
THEY WOULDN'T **SAY,** BUT I ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT WAS OUT OF **JEALOUSY.** THEY DEMANDED I DESTROY MY LITTLE POCKET WORLD.
PETULANT **BABIES.**
I TAUGHT THEM A LITTLE **HUMAN PERSPECTIVE,** AND THEY BACKED OFF ONCE I BROUGHT EVERYBODY **HOME.**
WHETHER ENVIOUS OR **NOT,** THEY KNEW THE TRUTH: YOUR POWER TO CREATE **REALITIES** WAS **BOUNDLESS.**
AND, TO BE FAIR, **SPORADIC.**
WHAT'S WRONG?
...
NOTHING. TO **CONTINUE...**


In the absence of the Avengers and the Fantastic Four, a new team had emerged.
The ***Thunderbolts*** gained the admiration of a world unaware that they were, in fact, villains posing as heroes.
Led by Baron Zemo posing as ***Citizen V***, several of them ended up rejecting, over time, their opportunistic ways in attempts to redeem themselves.


EARTH'S MUTANT POPULATION HAD EXPLODED. TO THE NORTH OF MADAGASCAR, THE ISLAND OF ***GENOSHA*** BECAME HOME TO OVER SIXTEEN MILLION *HOMO SUPERIOR* UNTIL ***CASSANDRA NOVA,*** CHARLES XAVIER'S TWIN SISTER, USED ROGUE SENTINELS TO ERADICATE THEM IN AN ACT OF UNREPENTANT GENOCIDE.
IN THE AFTERMATH, XAVIER REFUSED TO KEEP HIS STUDENTS IN HIDING ANY LONGER AND TOOK PROACTIVE PUBLIC STEPS TO IMPROVE HUMAN-MUTANT RELATIONS.
WHILE CYCLOPS AND EMMA FROST BECAME CO-HEADMASTERS OF THE ***XAVIER INSTITUTE,*** XAVIER AND MAGNETO BEGAN REBUILDING GENOSHA TOGETHER.



IN AMERICA, TWO LONG-RETIRED HEROES FOUND NEW LIFE. ONE, **ROBERT REYNOLDS**--ACTIVE YEARS BEFORE THANKS TO AN ATTEMPT TO RECREATE THE SUPER-SOLDIER FORMULA--AWOKE FROM AN AMNESIAC STATE AND RECLAIMED HIS IDENTITY AS **THE SENTRY.**

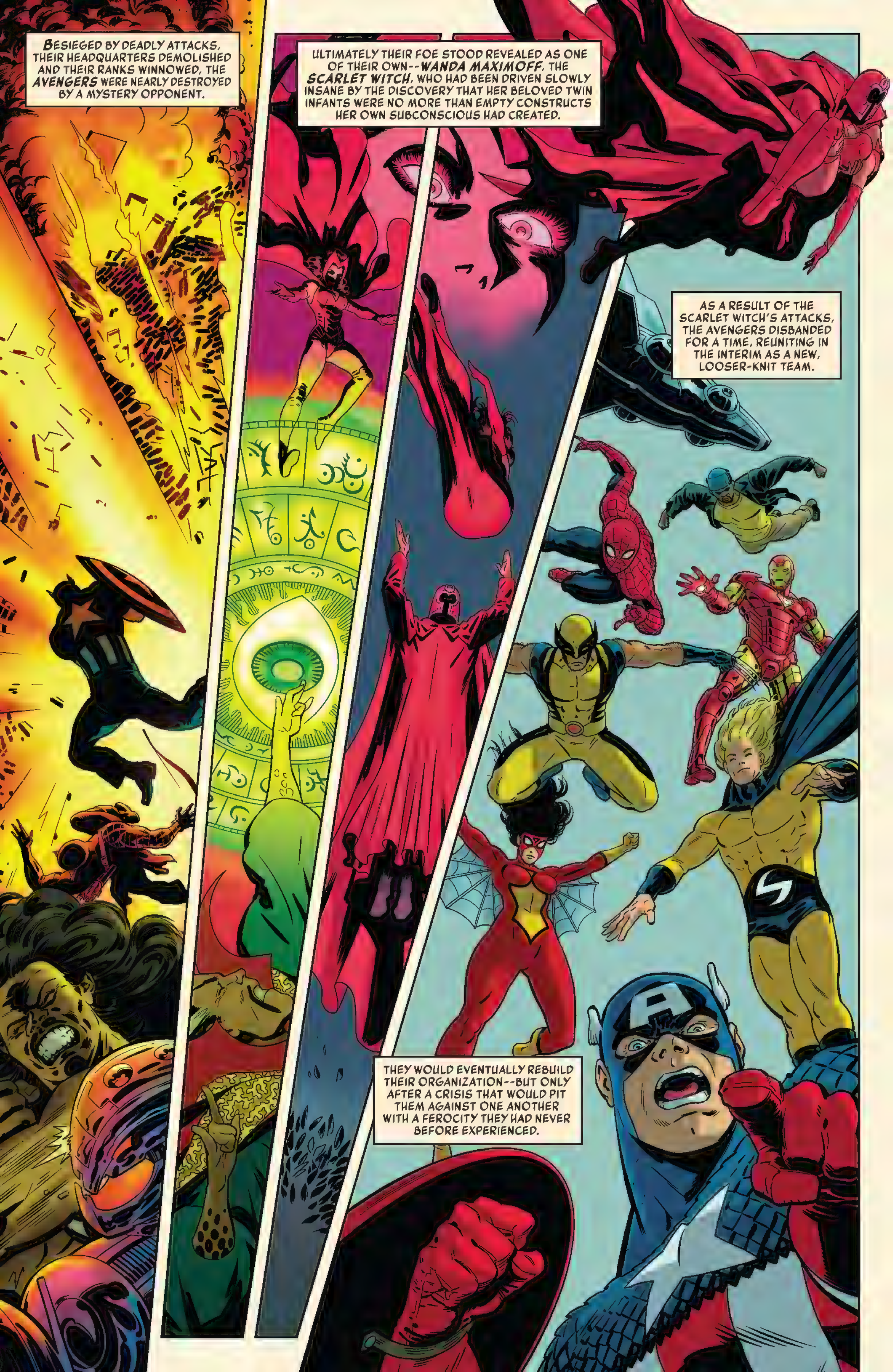
HIS PHOTOSYNTHETIC POWERS WERE VIRTUALLY LIMITLESS, HELD IN CHECK ONLY BY THE MENTAL BLOCKS OF HIS VARIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL ILLNESSES.

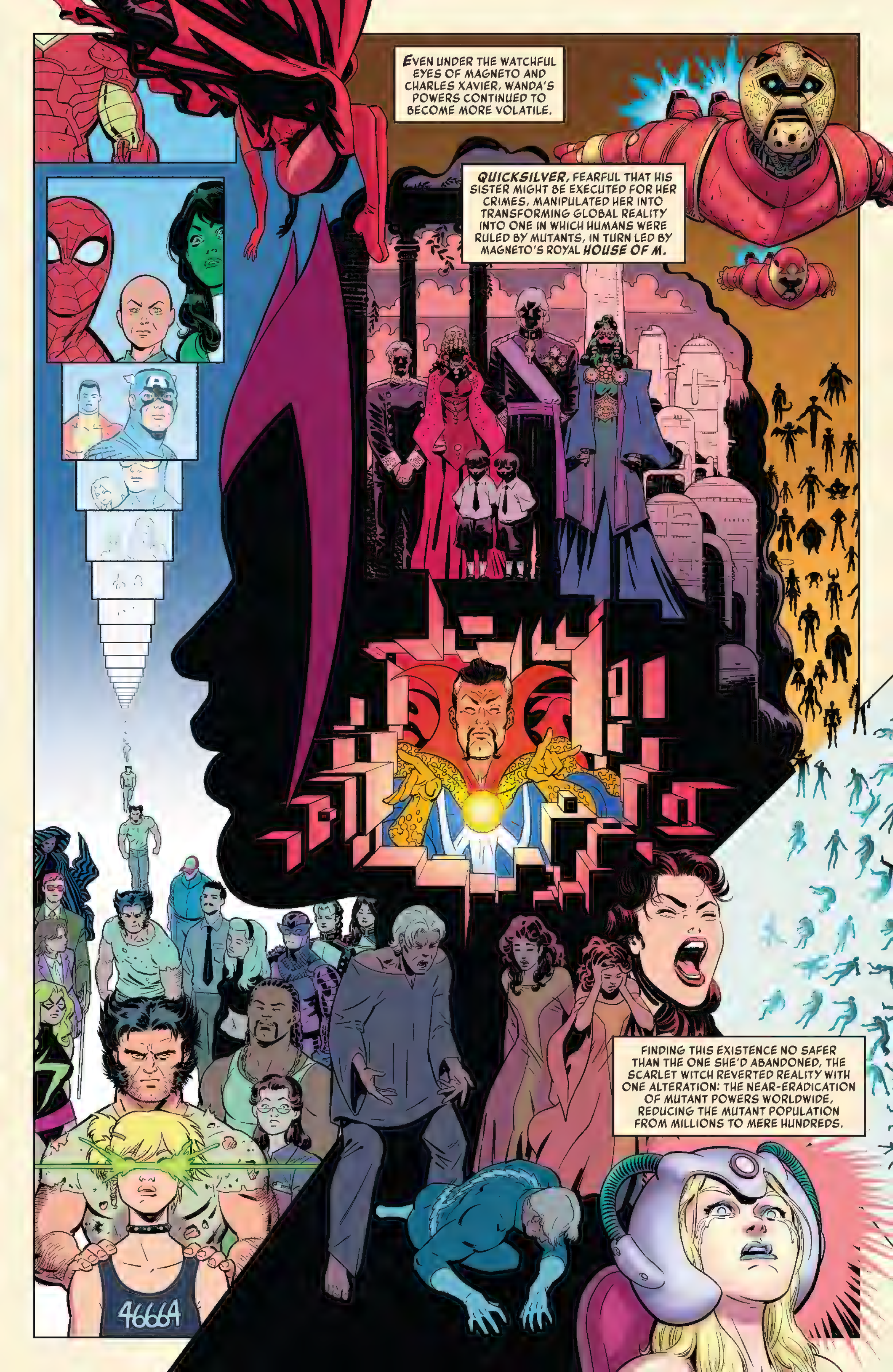
THE OTHER, **JESSICA JONES,** HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS AS A TEENAGER, GAINING POWERS INCLUDING SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH AND DURABILITY. FOR A SHORT TIME, SHE OPERATED UNDER THE CODENAME **JEWEL** UNTIL SHE WAS TRAUMATIZED BY AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE MIND-CONTROLLING **PURPLE MAN.** LEAVING JEWEL BEHIND, PRIVATE DETECTIVE JONES OPENED **ALIAS INVESTIGATIONS.**

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF A WEALTHY ENTREPRENEUR, **X-FORCE** EVOLVED INTO THE **X-STATIX** AND QUICKLY BECAME MEDIA SUPERSTARS.

NEWSSTAN
MAPS 0'50
GYMBOY
PHAT
BEAUTY
GUY
SMITH
OGUE
DEAD GIRL
DOOP
FIVE VOICES
Readers Today
X TRAVEL
ANARCHIST
AMAZING SENTRY
THE SENTRY ADVENTURES
MARVEL
THE AGE OF SENTRY VS. THE VOID

MEANWHILE, ANOTHER TEAM OF YOUNG HEROES WAS FORCED DOWN A FAR DIFFERENT PATH ONCE THEY DISCOVERED THEIR PARENTS WERE THE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION **THE PRIDE.** FLEEING THEIR HERITAGE TO CHART THEIR OWN DESTINY, THEY BECAME **RUNAWAYS.**


BESIEGED BY DEADLY ATTACKS, THEIR HEADQUARTERS DEMOLISHED AND THEIR RANKS WINNOWED, THE AVENGERS WERE NEARLY DESTROYED BY A MYSTERY OPPONENT.
ULTIMATELY THEIR FOE STOOD REVEALED AS ONE OF THEIR OWN--WANDA MAXIMOFF, THE SCARLET WITCH, WHO HAD BEEN DRIVEN SLOWLY INSANE BY THE DISCOVERY THAT HER BELOVED TWIN INFANTS WERE NO MORE THAN EMPTY CONSTRUCTS HER OWN SUBCONSCIOUS HAD CREATED.
AS A RESULT OF THE SCARLET WITCH'S ATTACKS, THE AVENGERS DISBANDED FOR A TIME, REUNITING IN THE INTERIM AS A NEW, LOOSER-KNIT TEAM.
THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY REBUILD THEIR ORGANIZATION--BUT ONLY AFTER A CRISIS THAT WOULD PIT THEM AGAINST ONE ANOTHER WITH A FEROCITY THEY HAD NEVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED.


EVEN UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF MAGNETO AND CHARLES XAVIER, WANDA'S POWERS CONTINUED TO BECOME MORE VOLATILE.
QUICKSILVER, FEARFUL THAT HIS SISTER MIGHT BE EXECUTED FOR HER CRIMES, MANIPULATED HER INTO TRANSFORMING GLOBAL REALITY INTO ONE IN WHICH HUMANS WERE RULED BY MUTANTS, IN TURN LED BY MAGNETO'S ROYAL **HOUSE OF M.**
FINDING THIS EXISTENCE NO SAFER THAN THE ONE SHE'D ABANDONED, THE SCARLET WITCH REVERTED REALITY WITH ONE ALTERATION: THE NEAR-ERADICATION OF MUTANT POWERS WORLDWIDE, REDUCING THE MUTANT POPULATION FROM MILLIONS TO MERE HUNDREDS.
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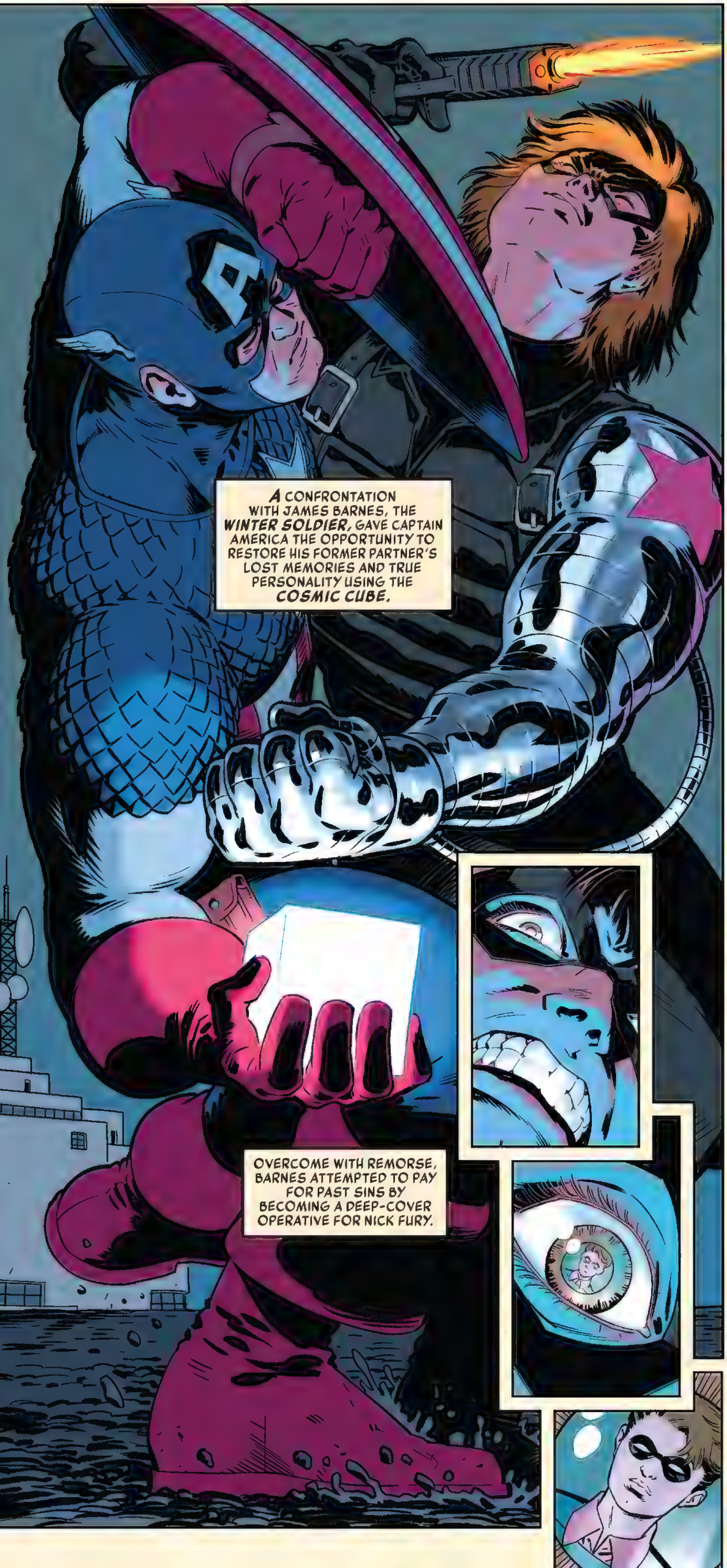
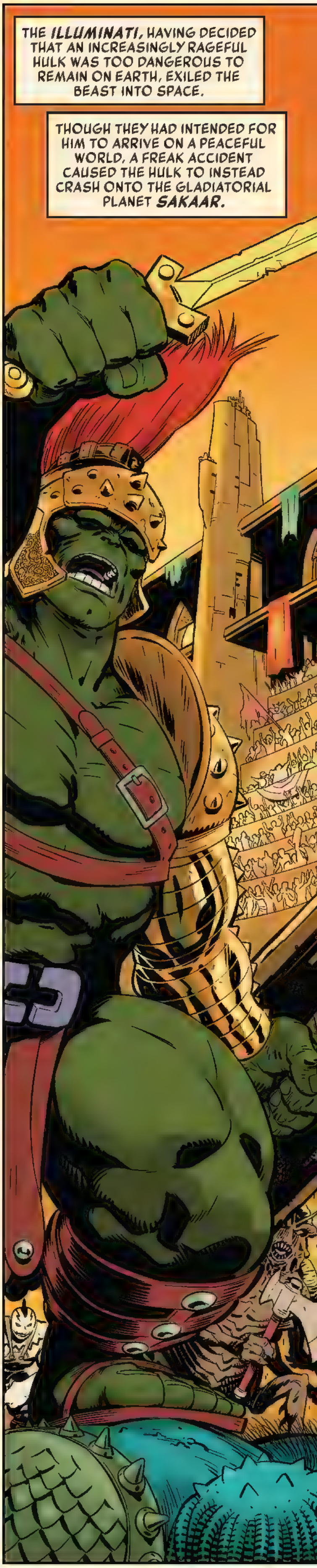
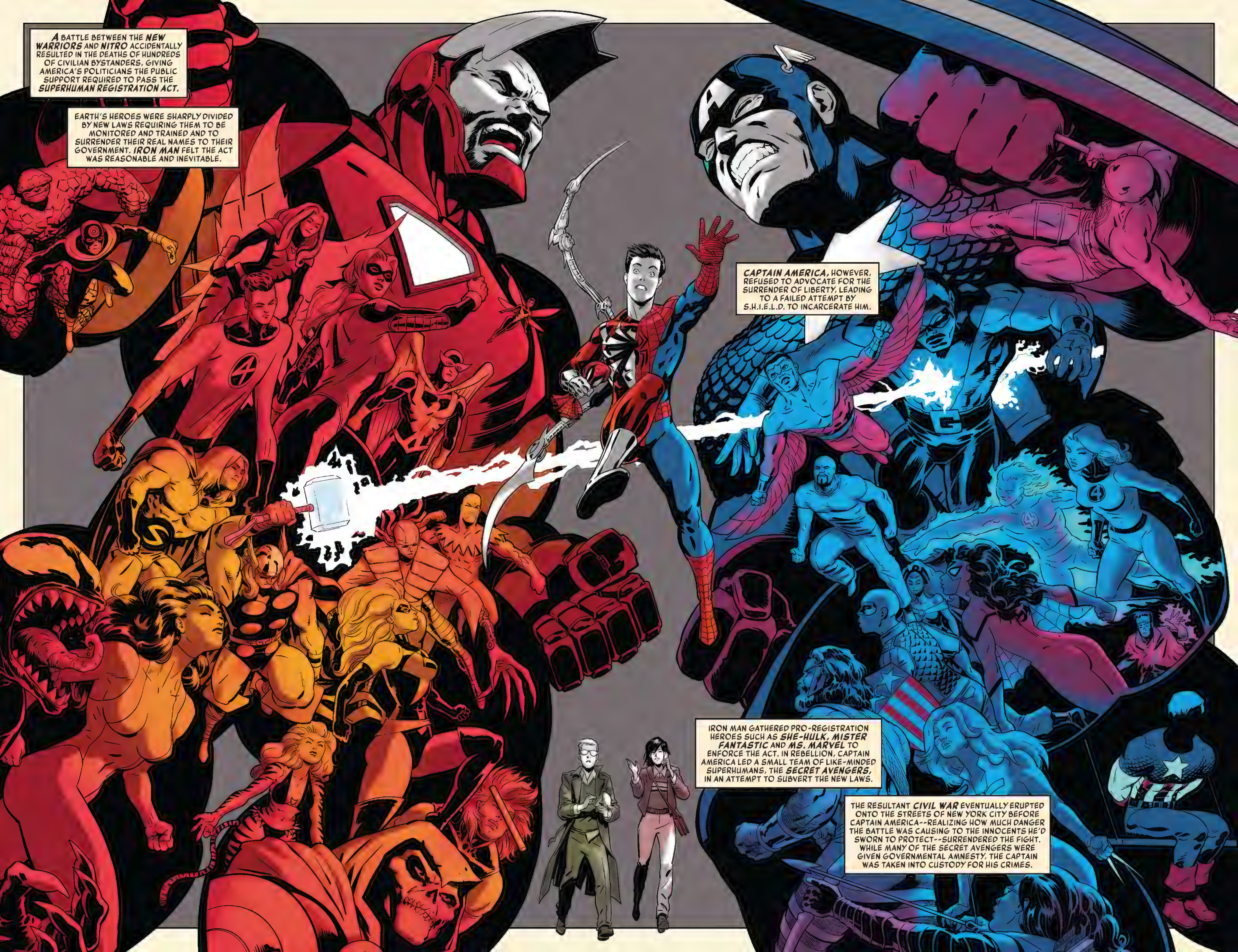
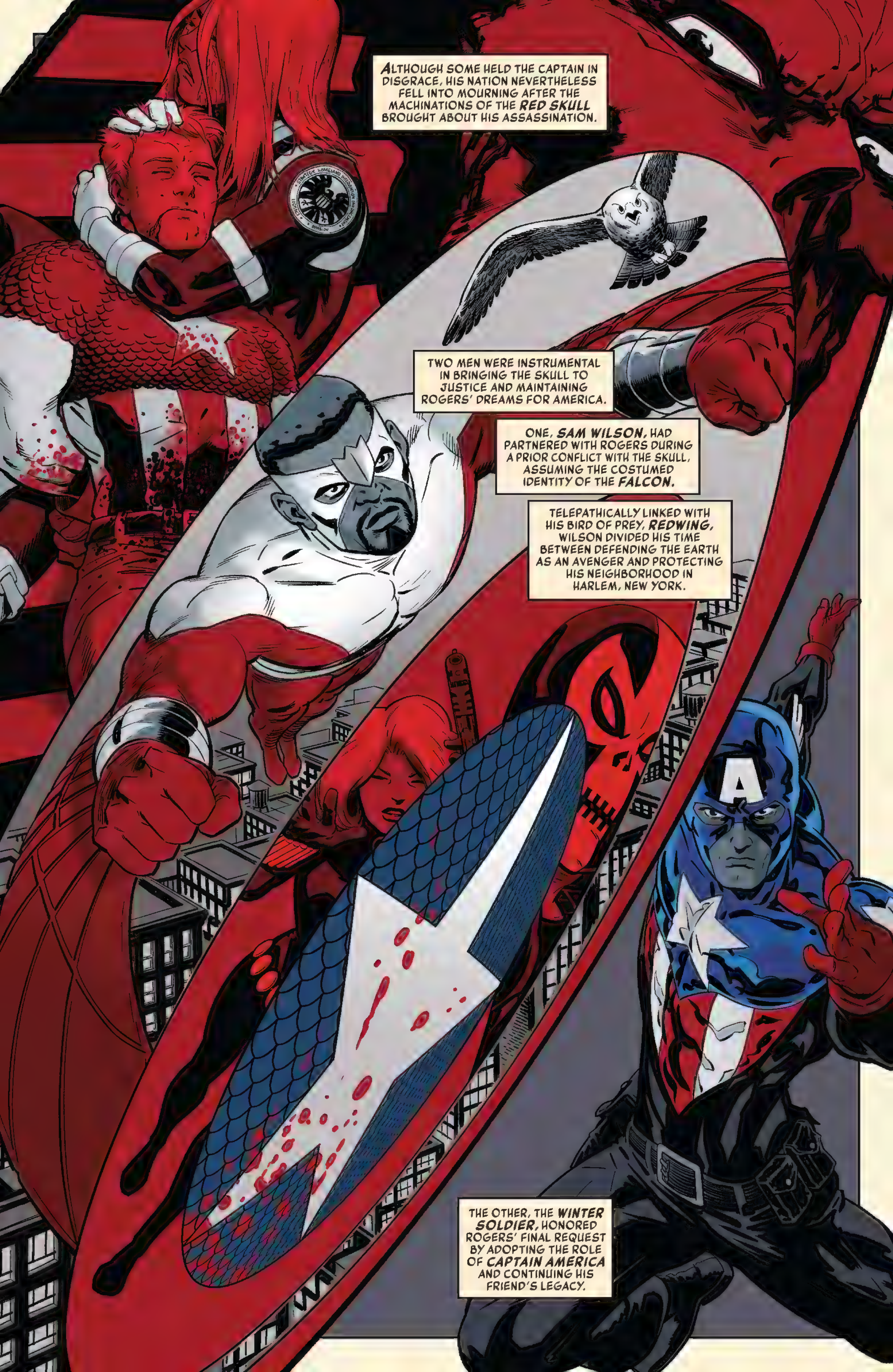
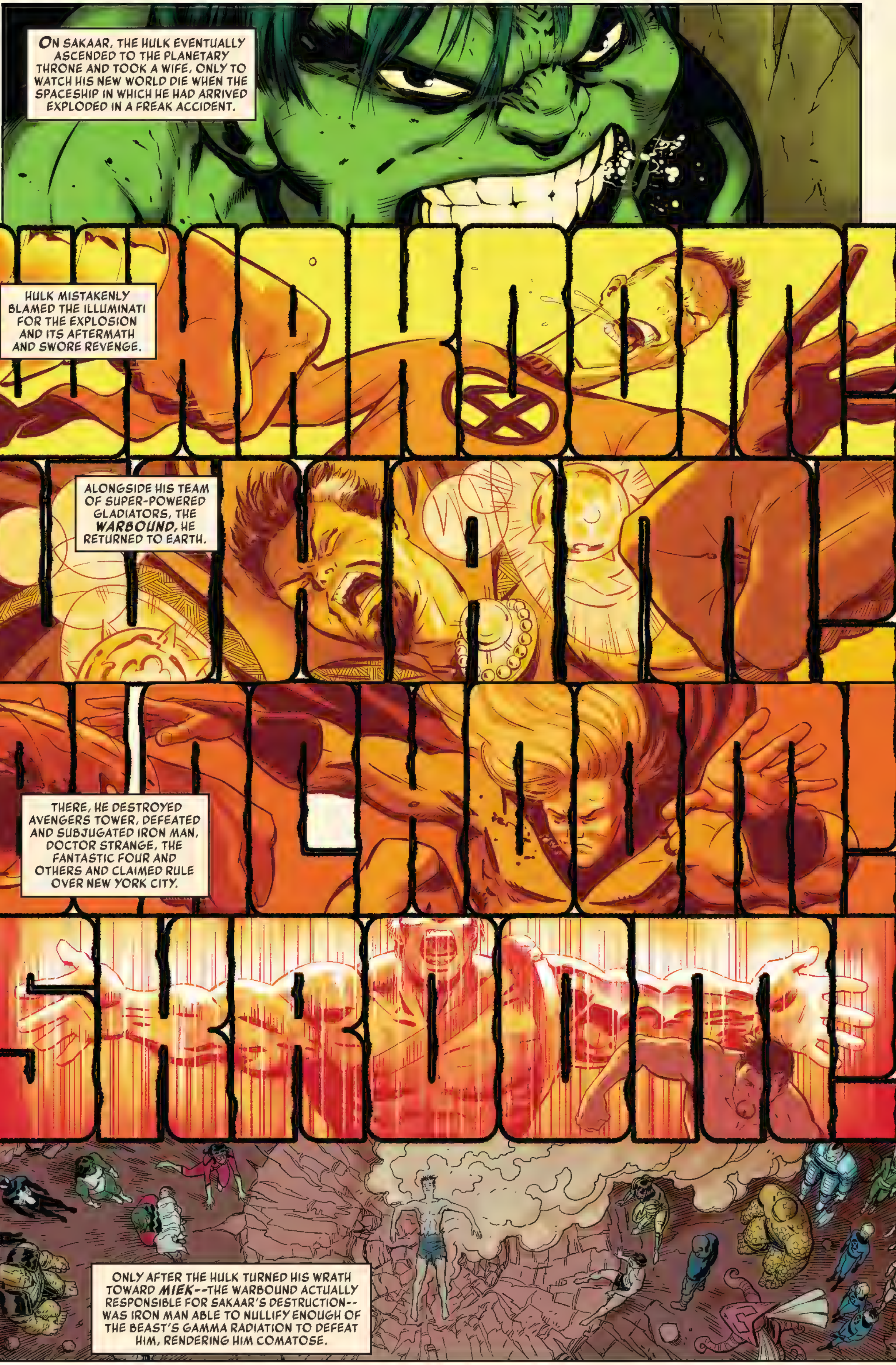
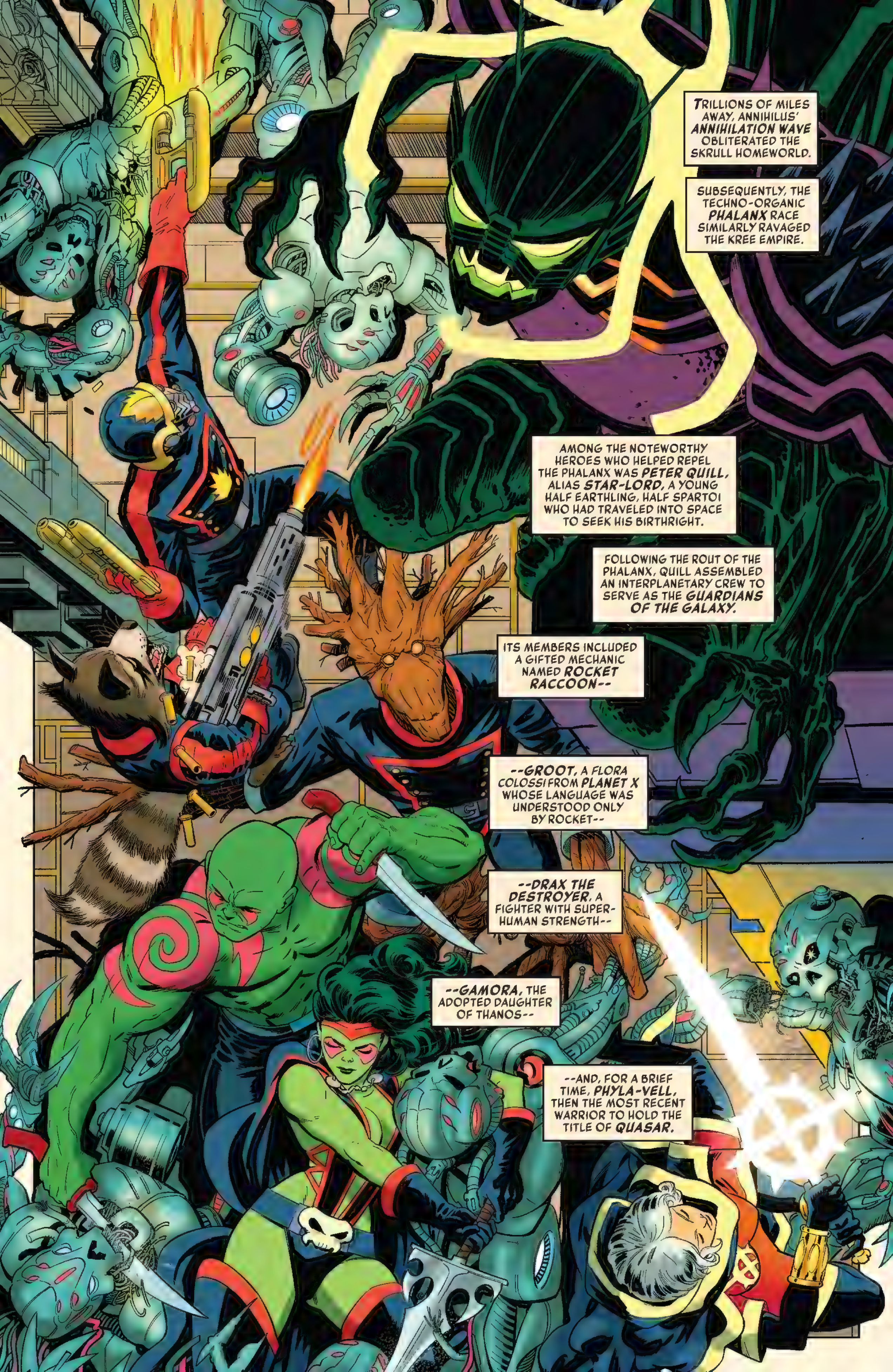

A CONFRONTATION WITH JAMES BARNES, THE **WINTER SOLDIER,** GAVE CAPTAIN AMERICA THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESTORE HIS FORMER PARTNER'S LOST MEMORIES AND TRUE PERSONALITY USING THE **COSMIC CUBE.**
OVERCOME WITH REMORSE, BARNES ATTEMPTED TO PAY FOR PAST SINS BY BECOMING A DEEP-COVER OPERATIVE FOR NICK FURY.

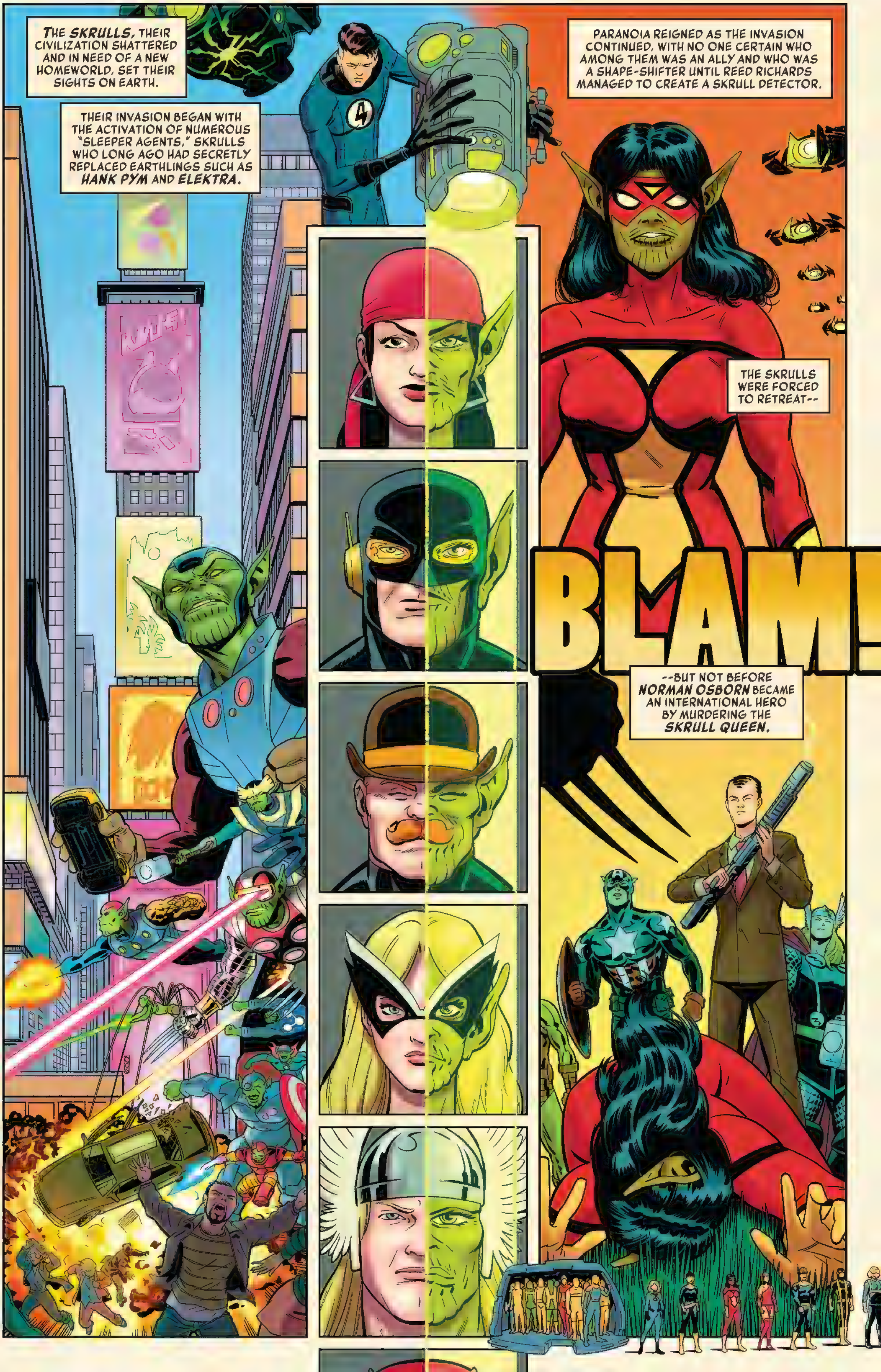

THE **ILLUMINATI,** HAVING DECIDED THAT AN INCREASINGLY RAGEFUL HULK WAS TOO DANGEROUS TO REMAIN ON EARTH, EXILED THE BEAST INTO SPACE.
THOUGH THEY HAD INTENDED FOR HIM TO ARRIVE ON A PEACEFUL WORLD, A FREAK ACCIDENT CAUSED THE HULK TO INSTEAD CRASH ONTO THE GLADIATORIAL PLANET **SAKAAR.**

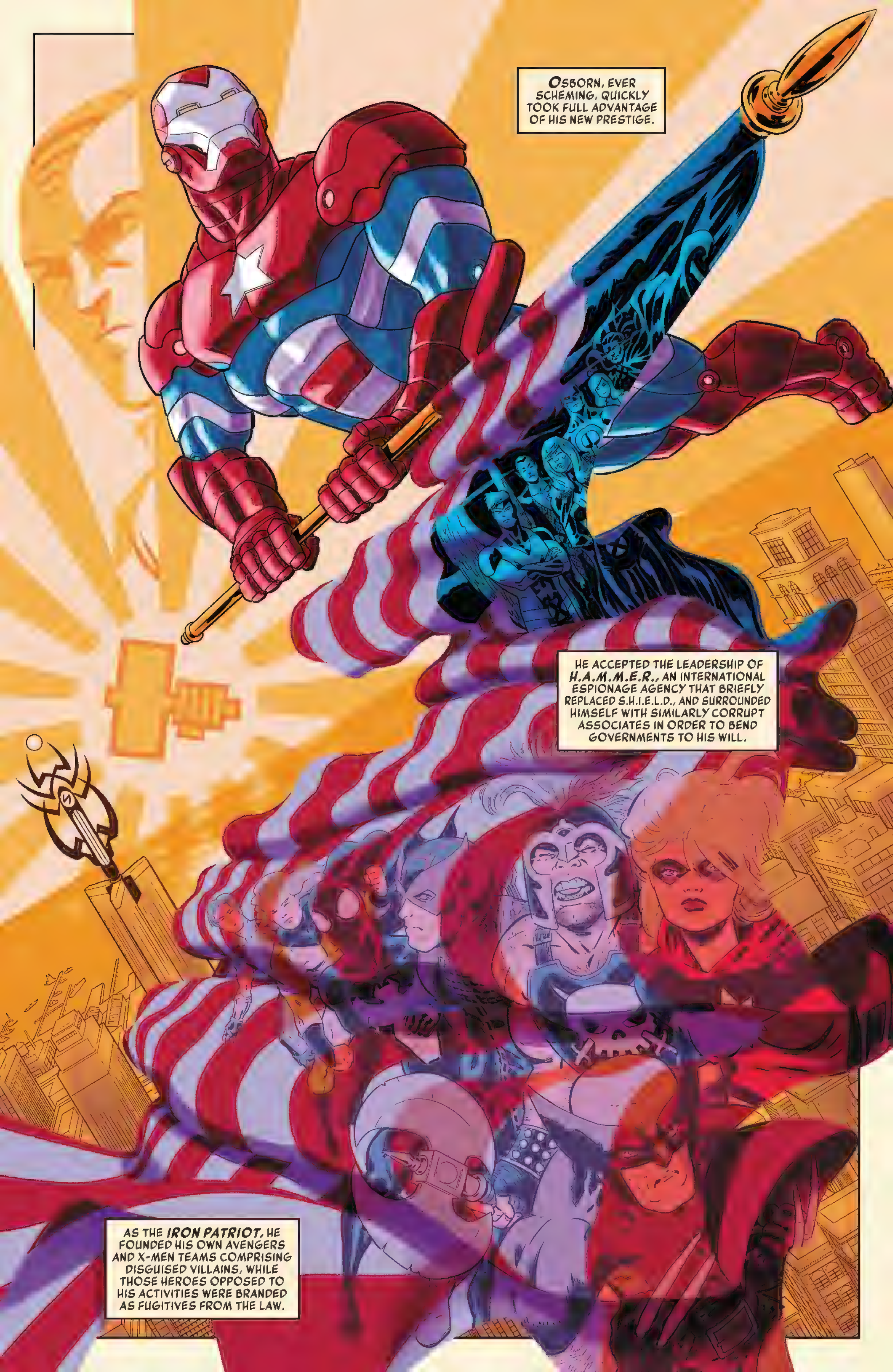

A BATTLE BETWEEN THE NEW WARRIORS AND NITRO ACCIDENTALLY RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF HUNDREDS OF CIVILIAN BYSTANDERS, GIVING AMERICA'S POLITICIANS THE PUBLIC SUPPORT REQUIRED TO PASS THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT.
EARTH'S HEROES WERE SHARPLY DIVIDED BY NEW LAWS REQUIRING THEM TO BE MONITORED AND TRAINED AND TO SURRENDER THEIR REAL NAMES TO THEIR GOVERNMENT. IRON MAN FELT THE ACT WAS REASONABLE AND INEVITABLE.
CAPTAIN AMERICA, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO ADVOCATE FOR THE SURRENDER OF LIBERTY, LEADING TO A FAILED ATTEMPT BY S.H.I.E.L.D. TO INCARCERATE HIM.
IRON MAN GATHERED PRO-REGISTRATION HEROES SUCH AS SHE-HULK, MISTER FANTASTIC AND MS. MARVEL TO ENFORCE THE ACT. IN REBELLION, CAPTAIN AMERICA LED A SMALL TEAM OF LIKE-MINDED SUPERHUMANS, THE SECRET AVENGERS, IN AN ATTEMPT TO SUBVERT THE NEW LAWS.
THE RESULTANT CIVIL WAR EVENTUALLY ERUPTED ONTO THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY BEFORE CAPTAIN AMERICA--REALIZING HOW MUCH DANGER THE BATTLE WAS CAUSING TO THE INNOCENTS HE'D SWORN TO PROTECT--SURRENDERED THE FIGHT. WHILE MANY OF THE SECRET AVENGERS WERE GIVEN GOVERNMENTAL AMNESTY, THE CAPTAIN WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY FOR HIS CRIMES.

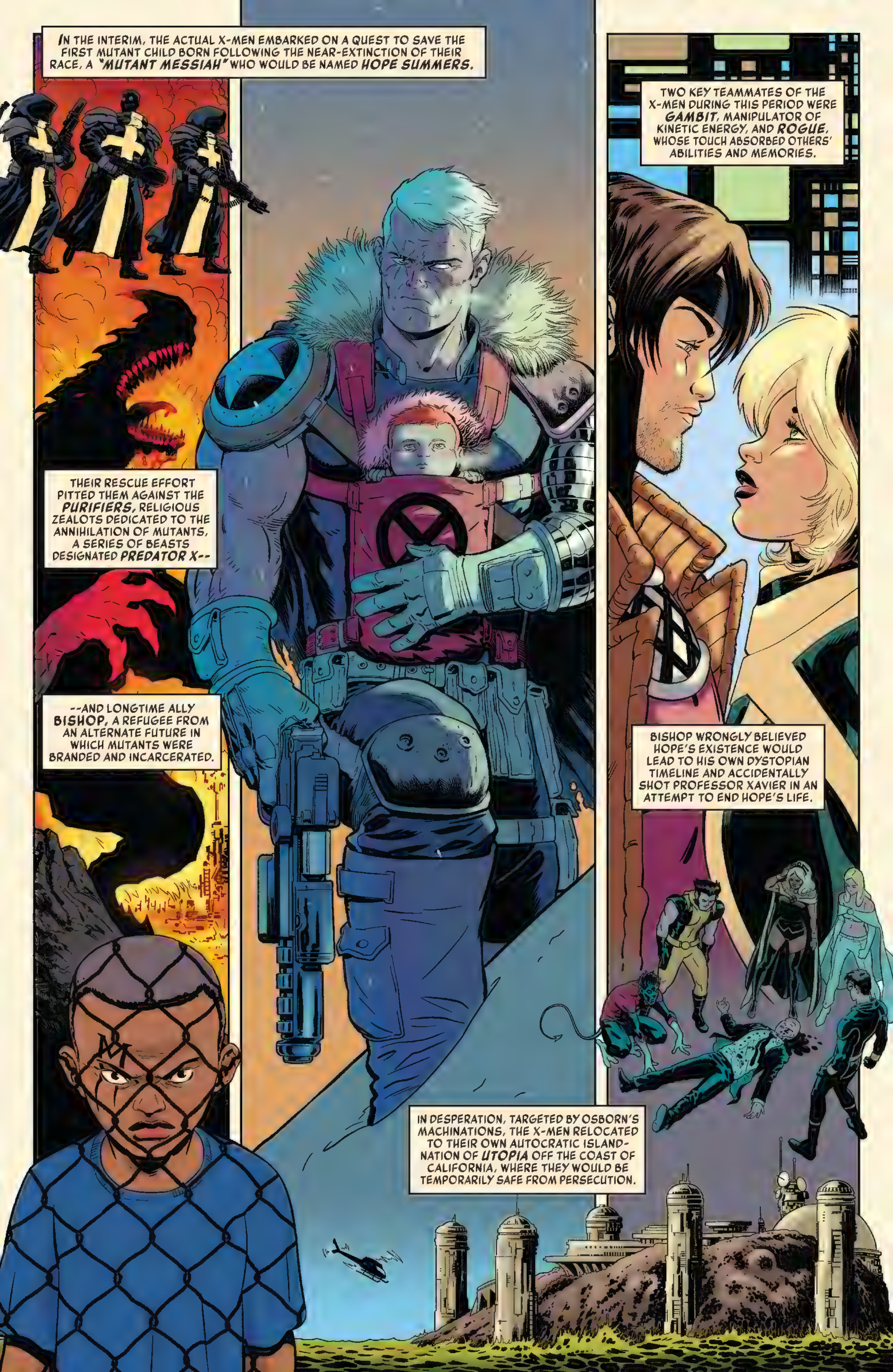

ALTHOUGH SOME HELD THE CAPTAIN IN DISGRACE, HIS NATION NEVERTHELESS FELL INTO MOURNING AFTER THE MACHINATIONS OF THE ***RED SKULL*** BROUGHT ABOUT HIS ASSASSINATION.
TWO MEN WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING THE SKULL TO JUSTICE AND MAINTAINING ROGERS' DREAMS FOR AMERICA.
ONE, ***SAM WILSON,*** HAD PARTNERED WITH ROGERS DURING A PRIOR CONFLICT WITH THE SKULL, ASSUMING THE COSTUMED IDENTITY OF THE ***FALCON.***
TELEPATHICALLY LINKED WITH HIS BIRD OF PREY, ***REDWING,*** WILSON DIVIDED HIS TIME BETWEEN DEFENDING THE EARTH AS AN AVENGER AND PROTECTING HIS NEIGHBORHOOD IN HARLEM, NEW YORK.
THE OTHER, THE ***WINTER SOLDIER,*** HONORED ROGERS' FINAL REQUEST BY ADOPTING THE ROLE OF ***CAPTAIN AMERICA*** AND CONTINUING HIS FRIEND'S LEGACY.


ON SAKAAR, THE HULK EVENTUALLY ASCENDED TO THE PLANETARY THRONE AND TOOK A WIFE, ONLY TO WATCH HIS NEW WORLD DIE WHEN THE SPACESHIP IN WHICH HE HAD ARRIVED EXPLODED IN A FREAK ACCIDENT.
WHAKOOM!
HULK MISTAKENLY BLAMED THE ILLUMINATI FOR THE EXPLOSION AND ITS AFTERMATH AND SWORE REVENGE.
ALONGSIDE HIS TEAM OF SUPER-POWERED GLADIATORS, THE WARBOUND, HE RETURNED TO EARTH.
THERE, HE DESTROYED AVENGERS TOWER, DEFEATED AND SUBJUGATED IRON MAN, DOCTOR STRANGE, THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND OTHERS AND CLAIMED RULE OVER NEW YORK CITY.
SKROOM!
ONLY AFTER THE HULK TURNED HIS WRATH TOWARD MIEK--THE WARBOUND ACTUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SAKAAR'S DESTRUCTION--WAS IRON MAN ABLE TO NULLIFY ENOUGH OF THE BEAST'S GAMMA RADIATION TO DEFEAT HIM, RENDERING HIM COMATOSE.


TRILLIONS OF MILES AWAY, ANNIHILUS' ANNIHILATION WAVE OBLITERATED THE SKRULL HOMEWORLD.
SUBSEQUENTLY, THE TECHNO-ORGANIC PHALANX RACE SIMILARLY RAVAGED THE KREE EMPIRE.
AMONG THE NOTEWORTHY HEROES WHO HELPED REPEL THE PHALANX WAS PETER QUILL, ALIAS STAR-LORD, A YOUNG HALF EARTHLING, HALF SPARTOI WHO HAD TRAVELED INTO SPACE TO SEEK HIS BIRTHRIGHT.
FOLLOWING THE ROUT OF THE PHALANX, QUILL ASSEMBLED AN INTERPLANETARY CREW TO SERVE AS THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY.
ITS MEMBERS INCLUDED A GIFTED MECHANIC NAMED ROCKET RACCOON--
--GROOT, A FLORA COLOSSI FROM PLANET X WHOSE LANGUAGE WAS UNDERSTOOD ONLY BY ROCKET--
--DRAX THE DESTROYER, A FIGHTER WITH SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH--
--GAMORA, THE ADOPTED DAUGHTER OF THANOS--
--AND, FOR A BRIEF TIME, PHYLA-VELL, THEN THE MOST RECENT WARRIOR TO HOLD THE TITLE OF QUASAR.


THE SKRULLS, THEIR CIVILIZATION SHATTERED AND IN NEED OF A NEW HOMEWORLD, SET THEIR SIGHTS ON EARTH.
THEIR INVASION BEGAN WITH THE ACTIVATION OF NUMEROUS "SLEEPER AGENTS," SKRULLS WHO LONG AGO HAD SECRETLY REPLACED EARTHLINGS SUCH AS HANK PYM AND ELEKTRA.
PARANOIA REIGNED AS THE INVASION CONTINUED, WITH NO ONE CERTAIN WHO AMONG THEM WAS AN ALLY AND WHO WAS A SHAPE-SHIFTER UNTIL REED RICHARDS MANAGED TO CREATE A SKRULL DETECTOR.
THE SKRULLS WERE FORCED TO RETREAT--
BLAM!
--BUT NOT BEFORE NORMAN OSBORN BECAME AN INTERNATIONAL HERO BY MURDERING THE SKRULL QUEEN.


OSBORN, EVER SCHEMING, QUICKLY TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE OF HIS NEW PRESTIGE.
HE ACCEPTED THE LEADERSHIP OF ***H.A.M.M.E.R.***, AN INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE AGENCY THAT BRIEFLY REPLACED S.H.I.E.L.D., AND SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH SIMILARLY CORRUPT ASSOCIATES IN ORDER TO BEND GOVERNMENTS TO HIS WILL.
AS THE ***IRON PATRIOT,*** HE FOUNDED HIS OWN AVENGERS AND X-MEN TEAMS COMPRISING DISGUISED VILLAINS, WHILE THOSE HEROES OPPOSED TO HIS ACTIVITIES WERE BRANDED AS FUGITIVES FROM THE LAW.



IN THE INTERIM, THE ACTUAL X-MEN EMBARKED ON A QUEST TO SAVE THE FIRST MUTANT CHILD BORN FOLLOWING THE NEAR-EXTINCTION OF THEIR RACE, A ***"MUTANT MESSIAH"*** WHO WOULD BE NAMED ***HOPE SUMMERS.***

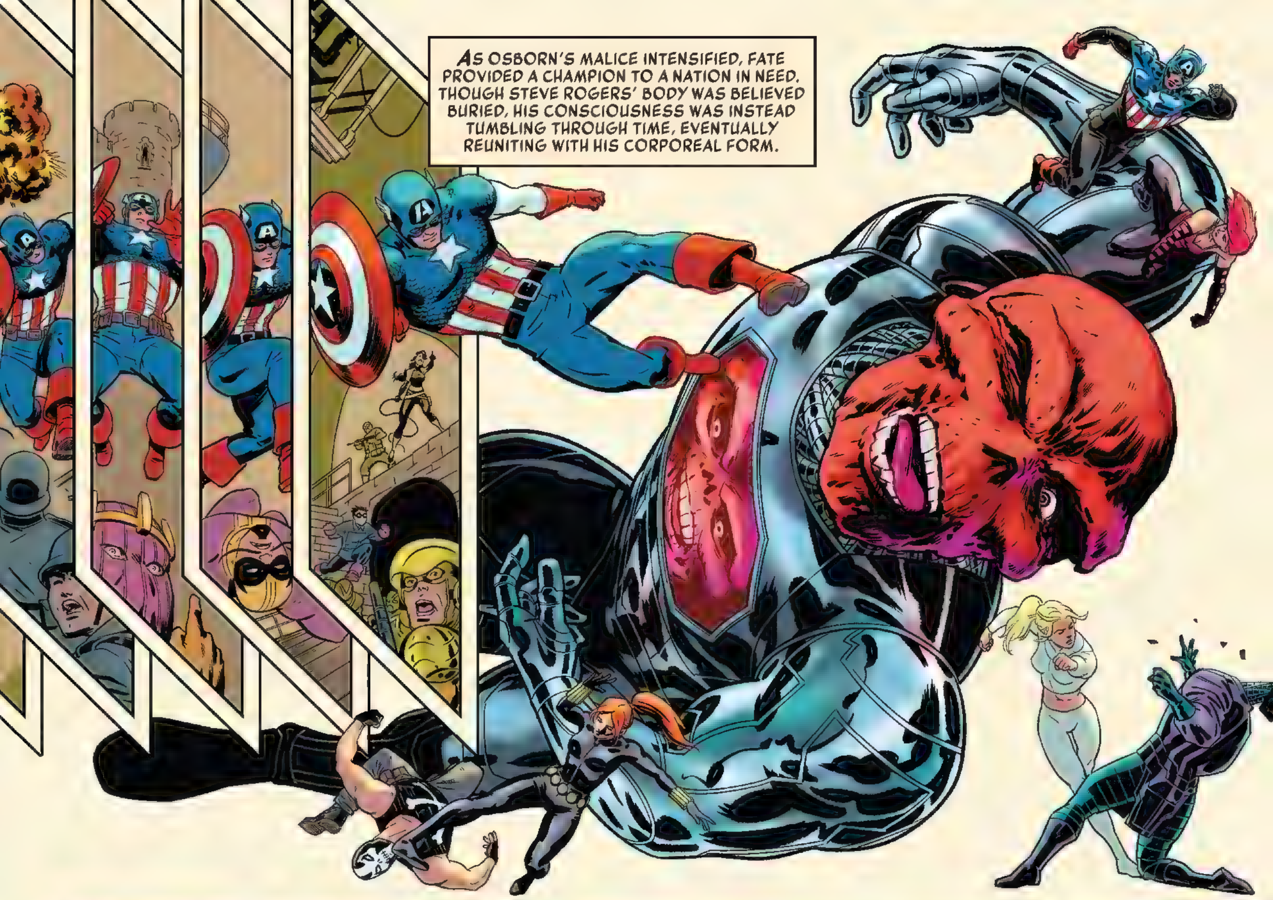
THEIR RESCUE EFFORT PITTED THEM AGAINST THE ***PURIFIERS,*** RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS DEDICATED TO THE ANNIHILATION OF MUTANTS, A SERIES OF BEASTS DESIGNATED ***PREDATOR X***--

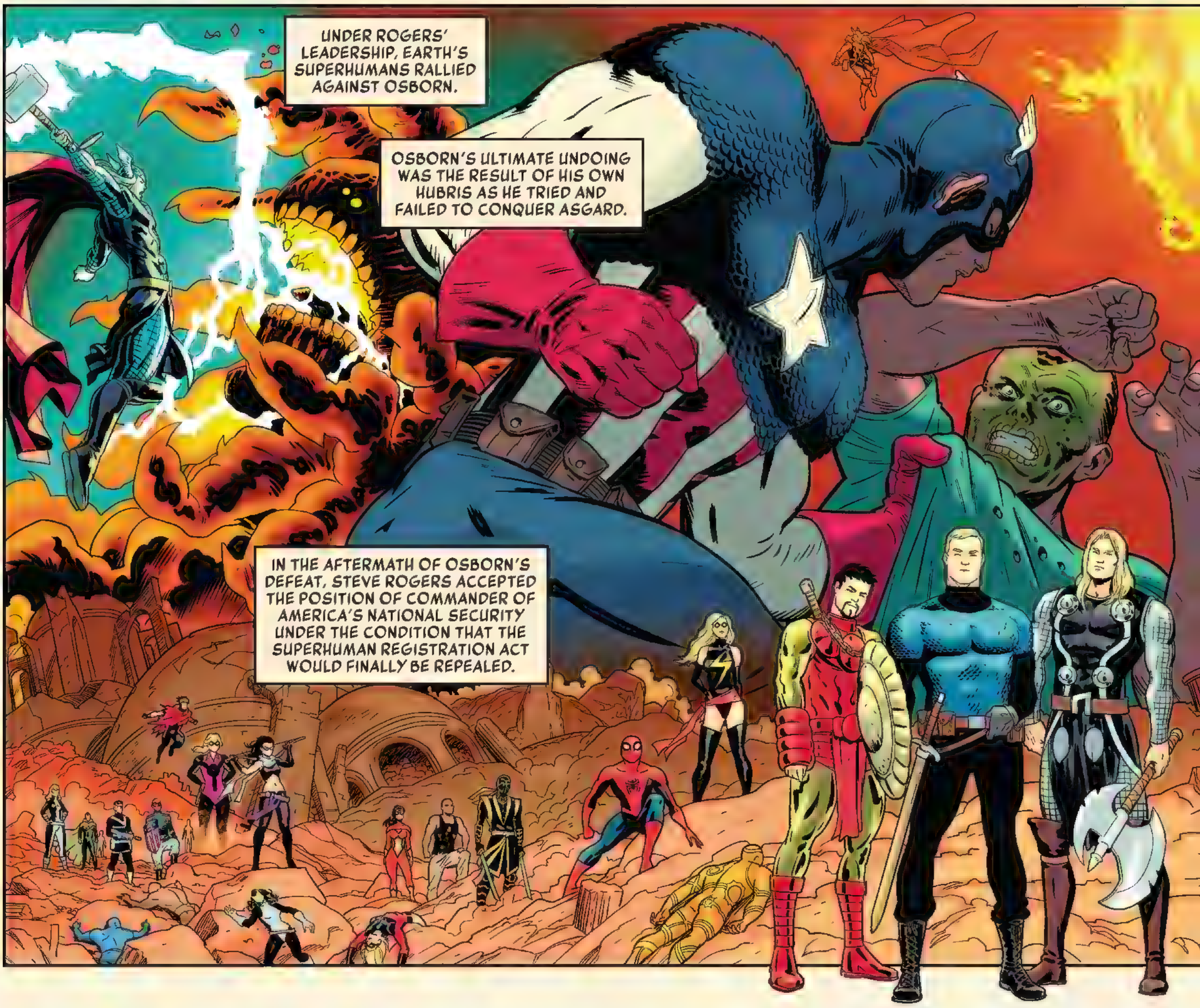
--AND LONGTIME ALLY ***BISHOP,*** A REFUGEE FROM AN ALTERNATE FUTURE IN WHICH MUTANTS WERE BRANDED AND INCARCERATED.

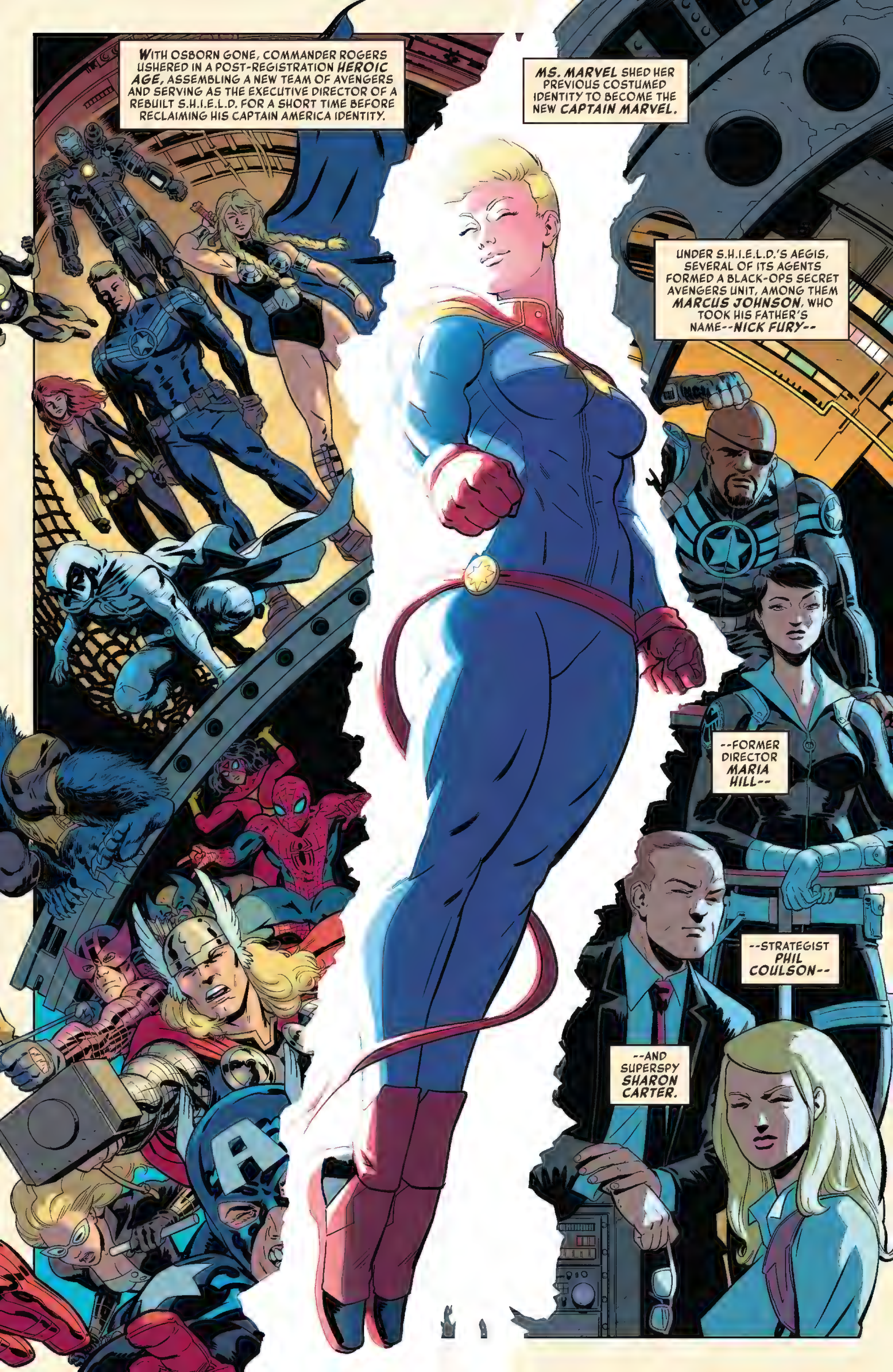
TWO KEY TEAMMATES OF THE X-MEN DURING THIS PERIOD WERE ***GAMBIT,*** MANIPULATOR OF KINETIC ENERGY, AND ***ROGUE,*** WHOSE TOUCH ABSORBED OTHERS' ABILITIES AND MEMORIES.

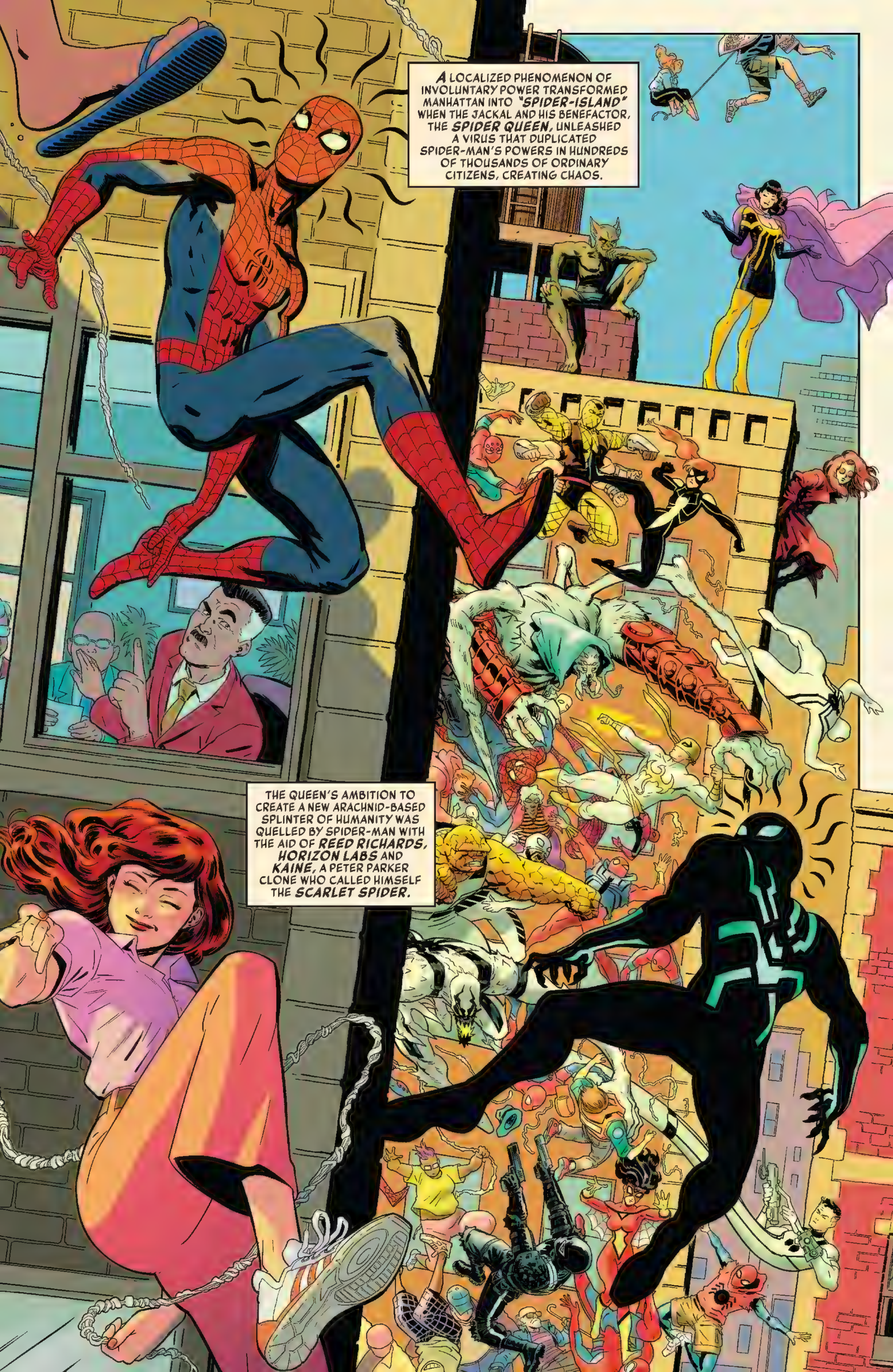
BISHOP WRONGLY BELIEVED HOPE'S EXISTENCE WOULD LEAD TO HIS OWN DYSTOPIAN TIMELINE AND ACCIDENTALLY SHOT PROFESSOR XAVIER IN AN ATTEMPT TO END HOPE'S LIFE.

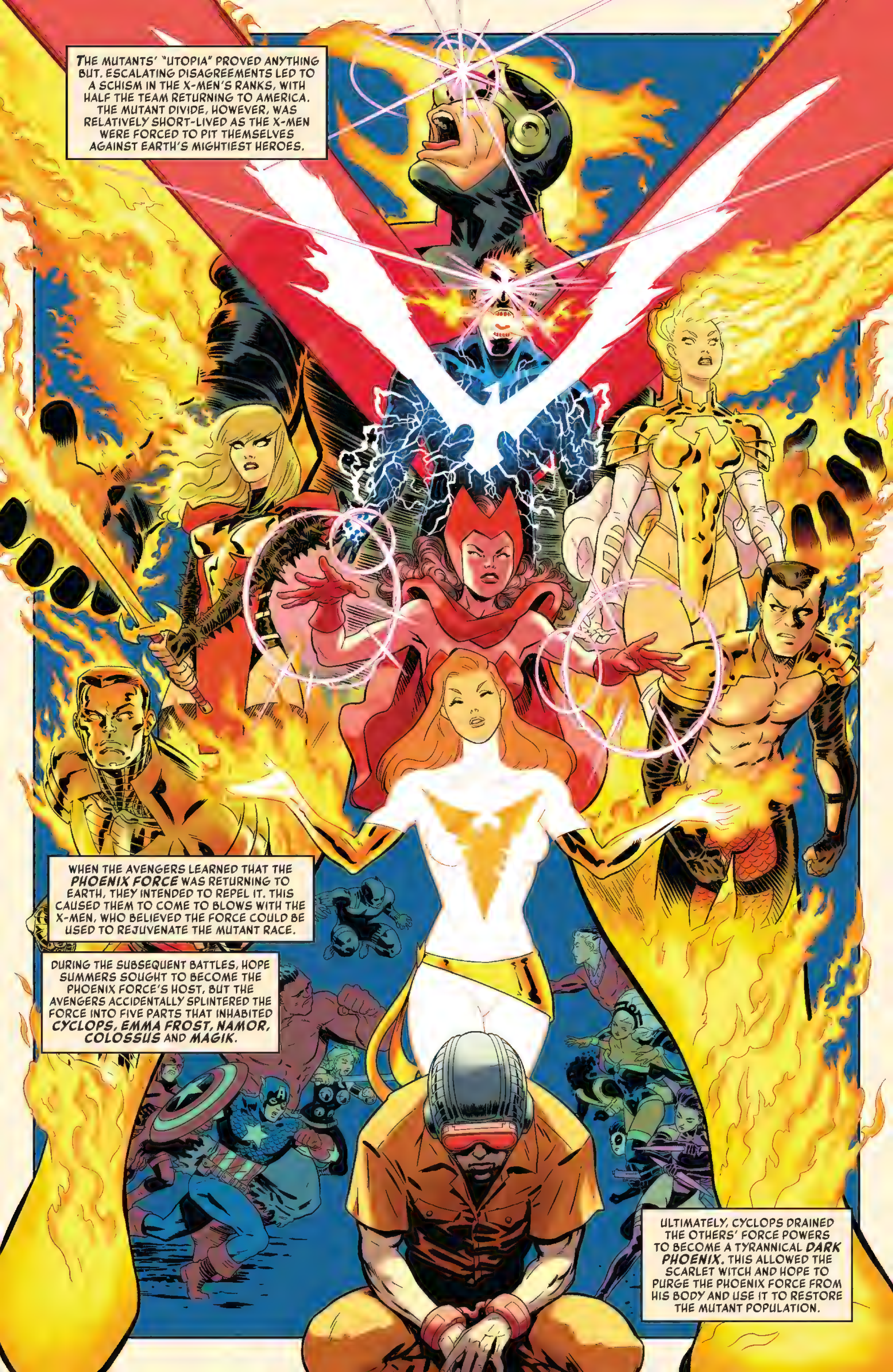
IN DESPERATION, TARGETED BY OSBORN'S MACHINATIONS, THE X-MEN RELOCATED TO THEIR OWN AUTOCRATIC ISLAND-NATION OF ***UTOPIA*** OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA, WHERE THEY WOULD BE TEMPORARILY SAFE FROM PERSECUTION.

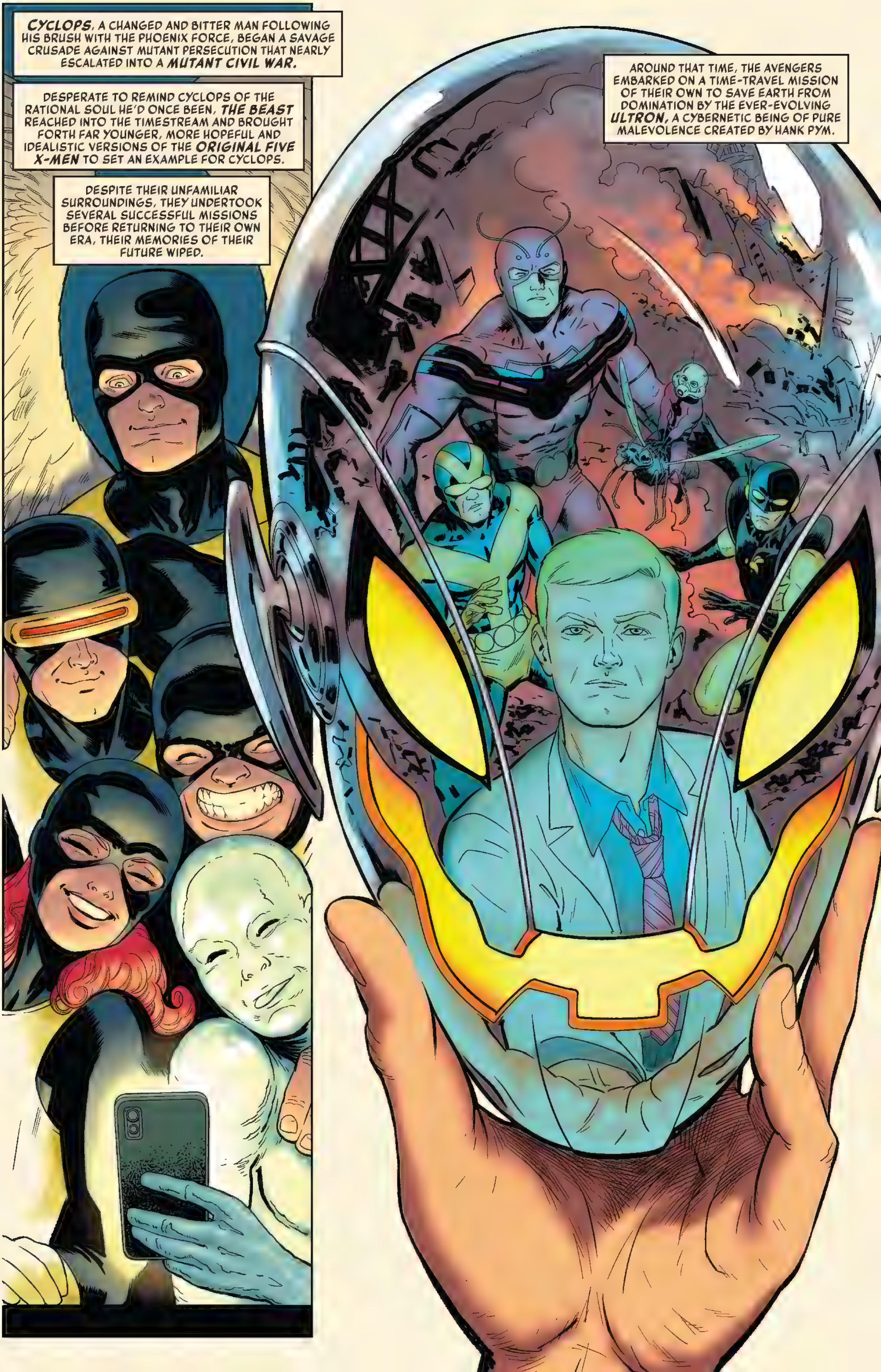

AS OSBORN'S MALICE INTENSIFIED, FATE PROVIDED A CHAMPION TO A NATION IN NEED. THOUGH STEVE ROGERS' BODY WAS BELIEVED BURIED, HIS CONSCIOUSNESS WAS INSTEAD TUMBLING THROUGH TIME, EVENTUALLY REUNITING WITH HIS CORPOREAL FORM.


UNDER ROGERS' LEADERSHIP, EARTH'S SUPERHUMANS RALLIED AGAINST OSBORN.
OSBORN'S ULTIMATE UNDOING WAS THE RESULT OF HIS OWN HUBRIS AS HE TRIED AND FAILED TO CONQUER ASGARD.
IN THE AFTERMATH OF OSBORN'S DEFEAT, STEVE ROGERS ACCEPTED THE POSITION OF COMMANDER OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY UNDER THE CONDITION THAT THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT WOULD FINALLY BE REPEALED.


WITH OSBORN GONE, COMMANDER ROGERS USHERED IN A POST-REGISTRATION *HEROIC AGE*, ASSEMBLING A NEW TEAM OF AVENGERS AND SERVING AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF A REBUILT S.H.I.E.L.D. FOR A SHORT TIME BEFORE RECLAIMING HIS CAPTAIN AMERICA IDENTITY.
MS. MARVEL SHED HER PREVIOUS COSTUMED IDENTITY TO BECOME THE NEW *CAPTAIN MARVEL*.
UNDER S.H.I.E.L.D.'S AEGIS, SEVERAL OF ITS AGENTS FORMED A BLACK-OPS SECRET AVENGERS UNIT, AMONG THEM *MARCUS JOHNSON*, WHO TOOK HIS FATHER'S NAME--*NICK FURY*--
--FORMER DIRECTOR *MARIA HILL*--
--STRATEGIST *PHIL COULSON*--
--AND SUPERSPY *SHARON CARTER*.


A LOCALIZED PHENOMENON OF INVOLUNTARY POWER TRANSFORMED MANHATTAN INTO "SPIDER-ISLAND" WHEN THE JACKAL AND HIS BENEFACTOR, THE SPIDER QUEEN, UNLEASHED A VIRUS THAT DUPLICATED SPIDER-MAN'S POWERS IN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ORDINARY CITIZENS, CREATING CHAOS.
THE QUEEN'S AMBITION TO CREATE A NEW ARACHNID-BASED SPLINTER OF HUMANITY WAS QUELLED BY SPIDER-MAN WITH THE AID OF REED RICHARDS, HORIZON LABS AND KAINE, A PETER PARKER CLONE WHO CALLED HIMSELF THE SCARLET SPIDER.


THE MUTANTS' "UTOPIA" PROVED ANYTHING BUT. ESCALATING DISAGREEMENTS LED TO A SCHISM IN THE X-MEN'S RANKS, WITH HALF THE TEAM RETURNING TO AMERICA. THE MUTANT DIVIDE, HOWEVER, WAS RELATIVELY SHORT-LIVED AS THE X-MEN WERE FORCED TO PIT THEMSELVES AGAINST EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.
WHEN THE AVENGERS LEARNED THAT THE ***PHOENIX FORCE*** WAS RETURNING TO EARTH, THEY INTENDED TO REPEL IT. THIS CAUSED THEM TO COME TO BLOWS WITH THE X-MEN, WHO BELIEVED THE FORCE COULD BE USED TO REJUVENATE THE MUTANT RACE.
DURING THE SUBSEQUENT BATTLES, HOPE SUMMERS SOUGHT TO BECOME THE PHOENIX FORCE'S HOST, BUT THE AVENGERS ACCIDENTALLY SPLINTERED THE FORCE INTO FIVE PARTS THAT INHABITED ***CYCLOPS, EMMA FROST, NAMOR, COLOSSUS*** AND ***MAGIK***.
ULTIMATELY, CYCLOPS DRAINED THE OTHERS' FORCE POWERS TO BECOME A TYRANNICAL ***DARK PHOENIX.*** THIS ALLOWED THE SCARLET WITCH AND HOPE TO PURGE THE PHOENIX FORCE FROM HIS BODY AND USE IT TO RESTORE THE MUTANT POPULATION.

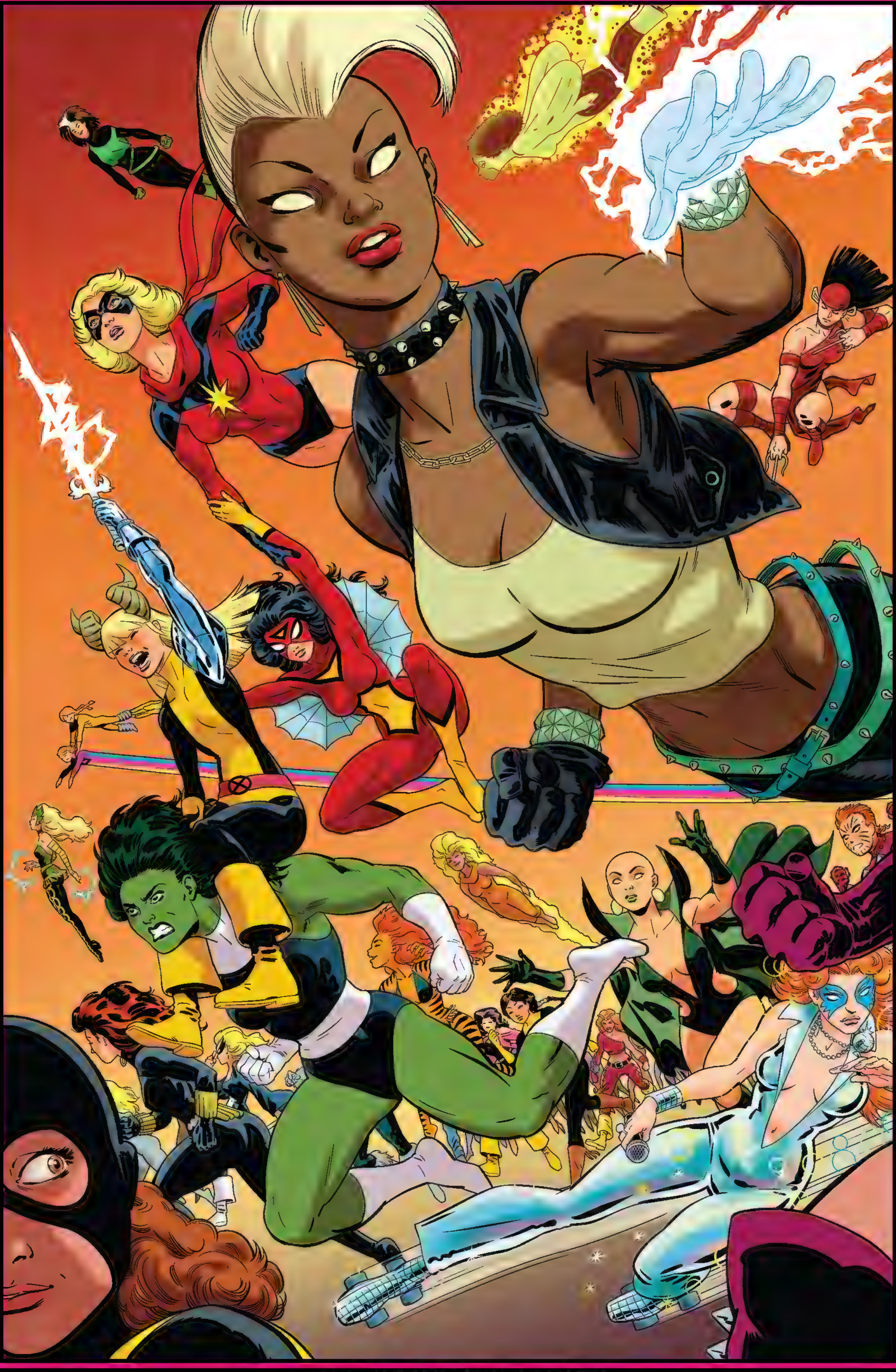


CYCLOPS, A CHANGED AND BITTER MAN FOLLOWING HIS BRUSH WITH THE PHOENIX FORCE, BEGAN A SAVAGE CRUSADE AGAINST MUTANT PERSECUTION THAT NEARLY ESCALATED INTO A ***MUTANT CIVIL WAR.***

DESPERATE TO REMIND CYCLOPS OF THE RATIONAL SOUL HE'D ONCE BEEN, ***THE BEAST*** REACHED INTO THE TIMESTREAM AND BROUGHT FORTH FAR YOUNGER, MORE HOPEFUL AND IDEALISTIC VERSIONS OF THE ***ORIGINAL FIVE X-MEN*** TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR CYCLOPS.

DESPITE THEIR UNFAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS, THEY UNDERTOOK SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL MISSIONS BEFORE RETURNING TO THEIR OWN ERA, THEIR MEMORIES OF THEIR FUTURE WIPED.

AROUND THAT TIME, THE AVENGERS EMBARKED ON A TIME-TRAVEL MISSION OF THEIR OWN TO SAVE EARTH FROM DOMINATION BY THE EVER-EVOLVING ***ULTRON,*** A CYBERNETIC BEING OF PURE MALEVOLENCE CREATED BY HANK PYM.



#4 VARIANT BY **JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ** & **ÁLVARO LÓPEZ**

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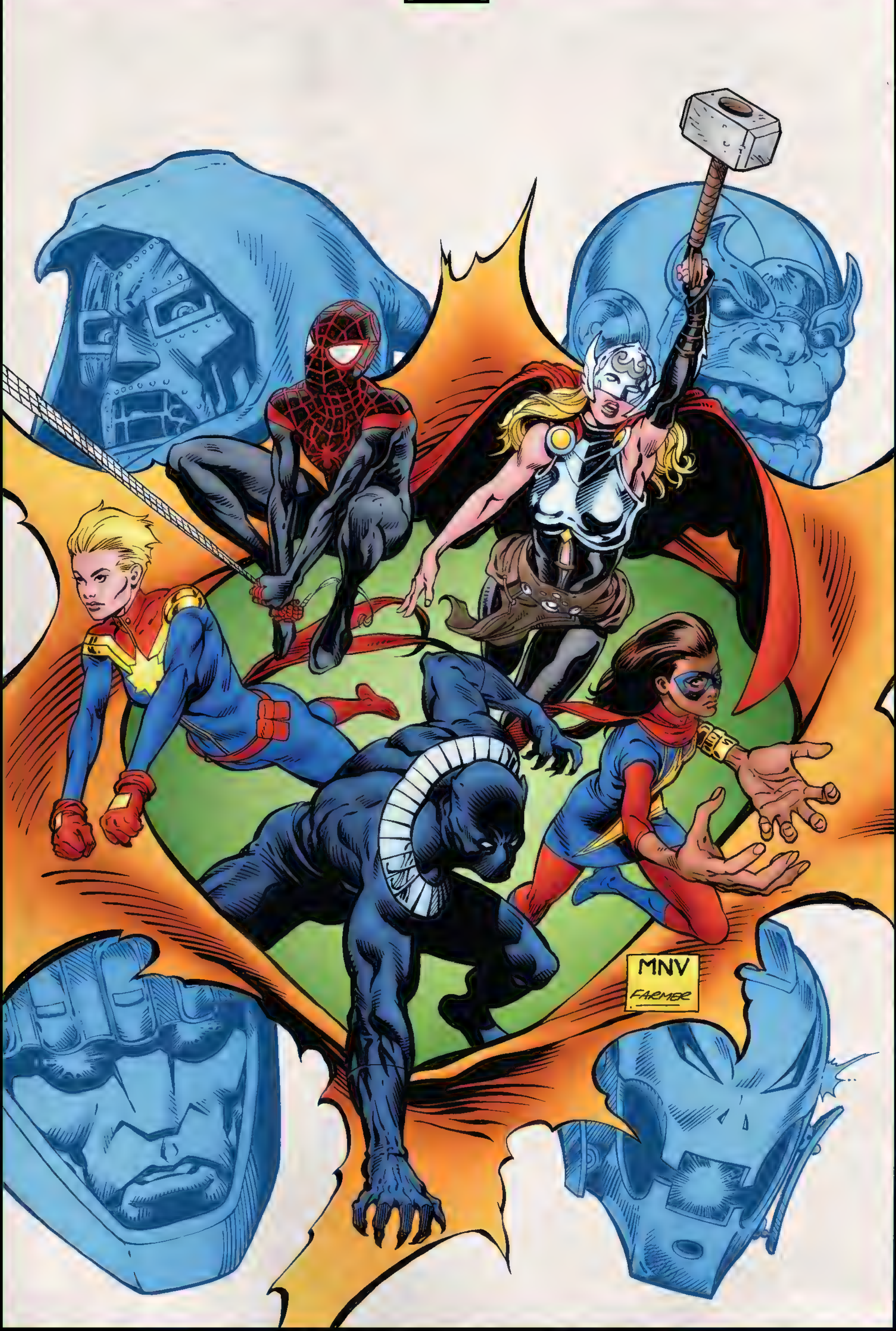
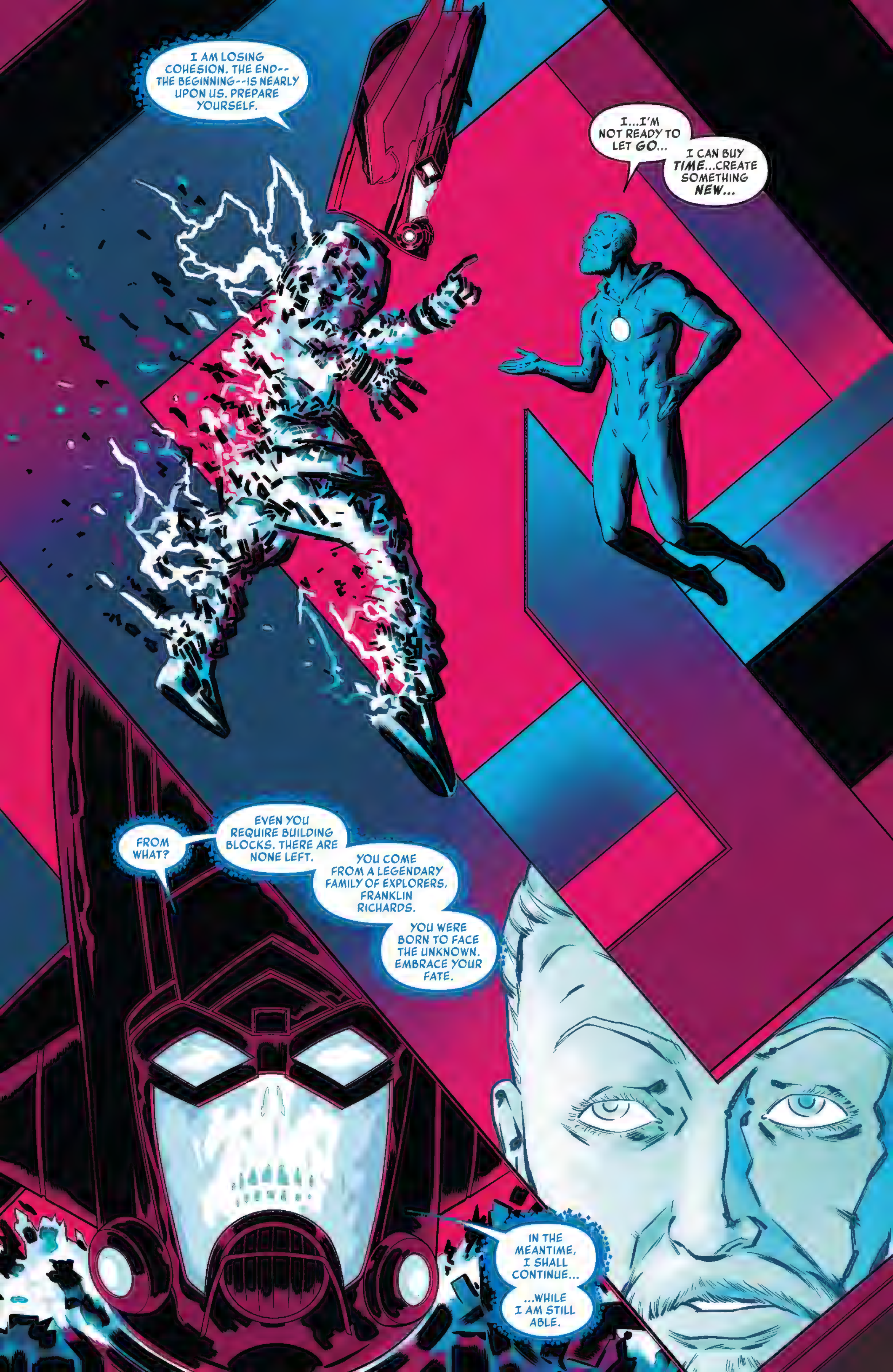
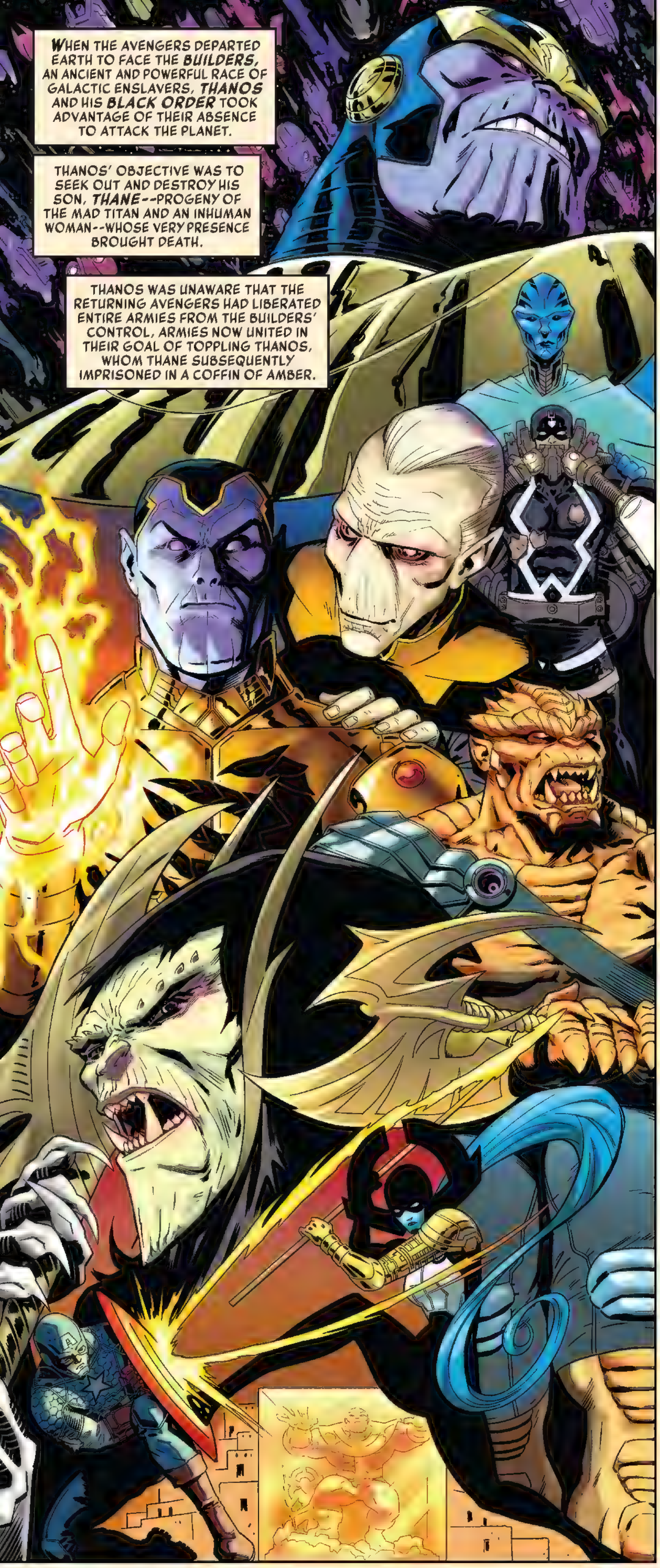


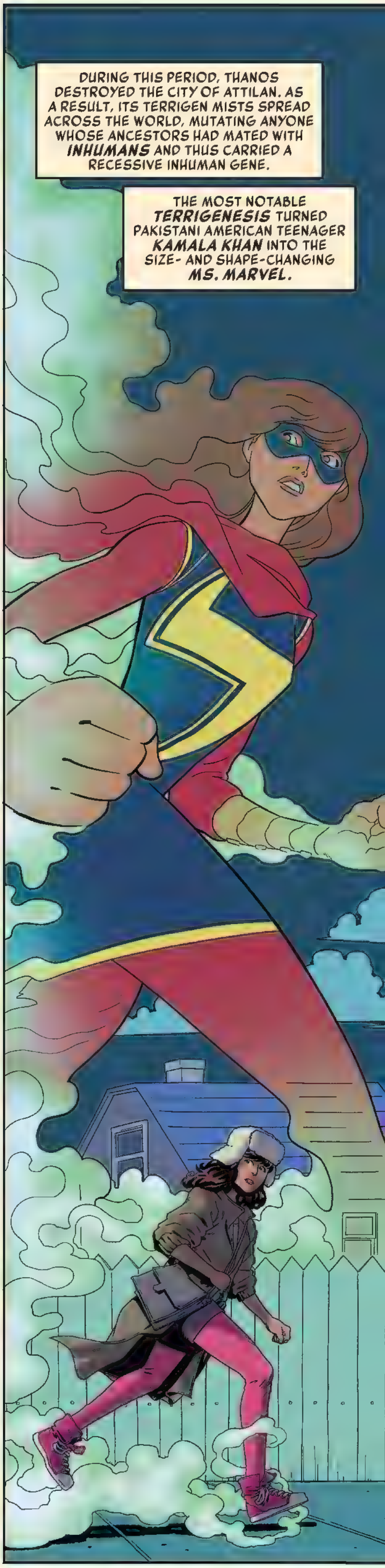

I AM LOSING COHESION. THE END--THE BEGINNING--IS NEARLY UPON US. PREPARE YOURSELF.
I...I'M NOT READY TO LET GO...
I CAN BUY TIME...CREATE SOMETHING NEW...
FROM WHAT?
EVEN YOU REQUIRE BUILDING BLOCKS. THERE ARE NONE LEFT.
YOU COME FROM A LEGENDARY FAMILY OF EXPLORERS, FRANKLIN RICHARDS.
YOU WERE BORN TO FACE THE UNKNOWN. EMBRACE YOUR FATE.
IN THE MEANTIME, I SHALL CONTINUE...
...WHILE I AM STILL ABLE.



WHEN THE AVENGERS DEPARTED EARTH TO FACE THE **BUILDERS**, AN ANCIENT AND POWERFUL RACE OF GALACTIC ENSLAVERS, **THANOS** AND HIS **BLACK ORDER** TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THEIR ABSENCE TO ATTACK THE PLANET.

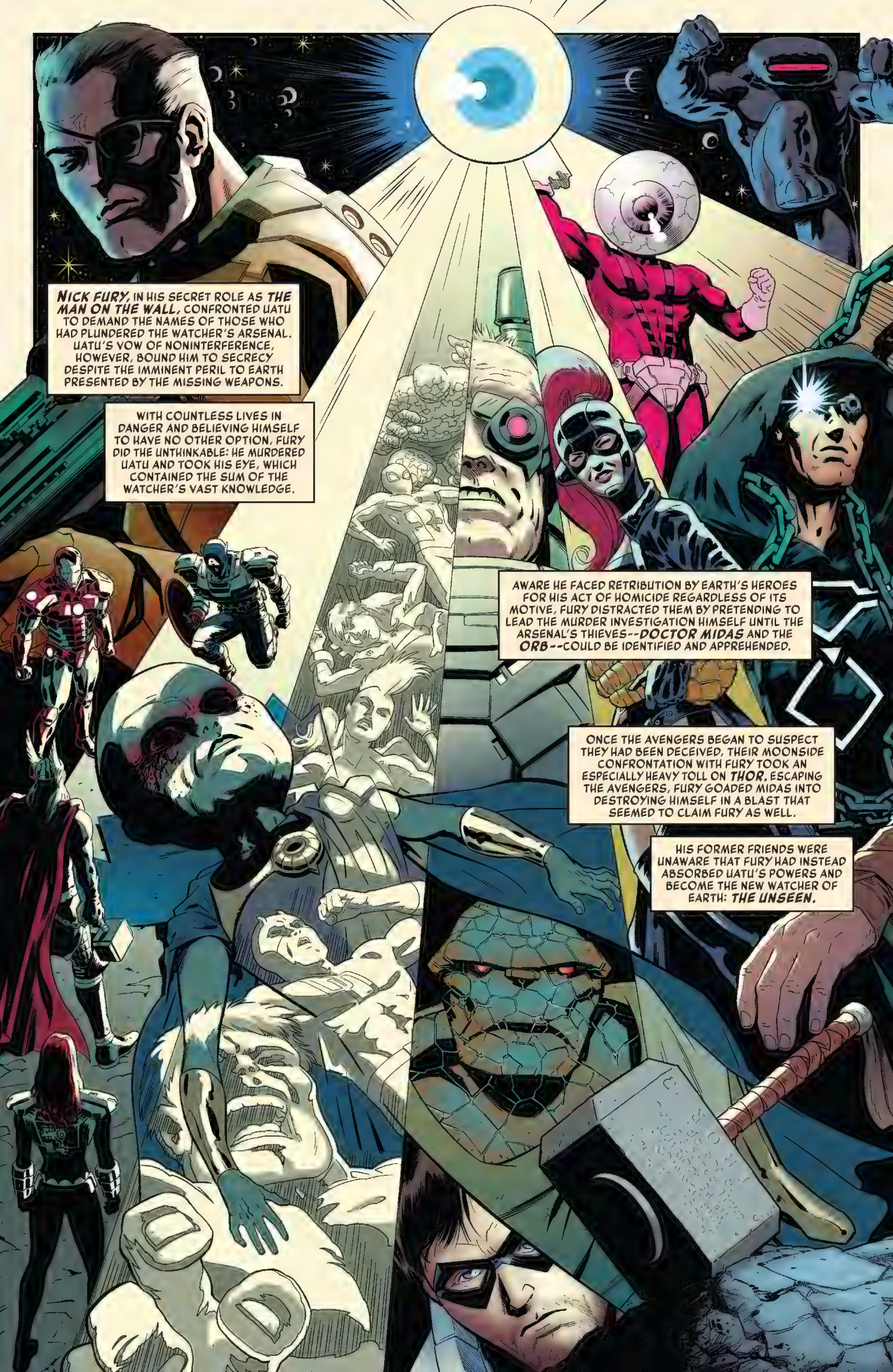
THANOS' OBJECTIVE WAS TO SEEK OUT AND DESTROY HIS SON, **THANE**--PROGENY OF THE MAD TITAN AND AN INHUMAN WOMAN--WHOSE VERY PRESENCE BROUGHT DEATH.

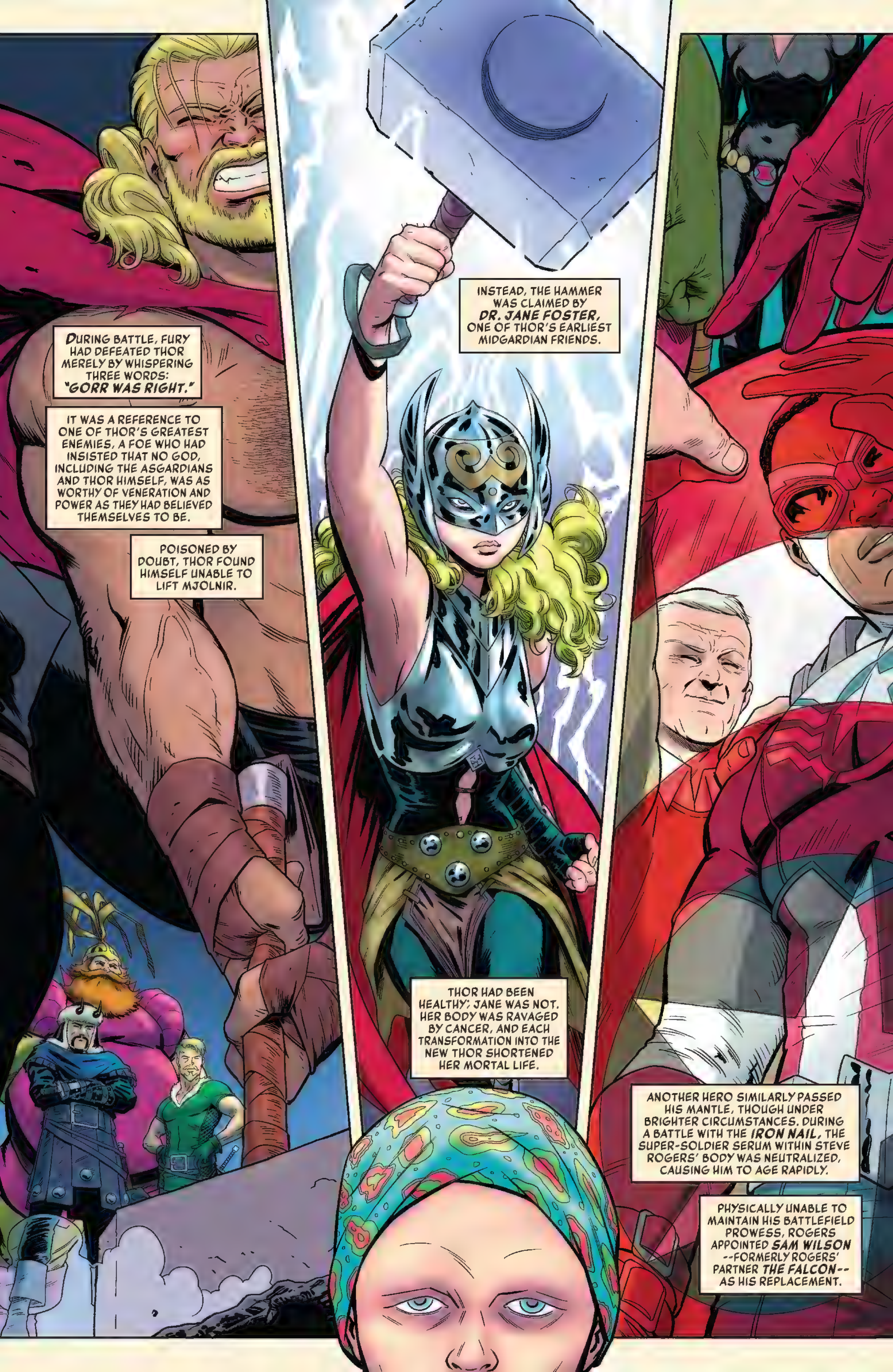
THANOS WAS UNAWARE THAT THE RETURNING AVENGERS HAD LIBERATED ENTIRE ARMIES FROM THE BUILDERS' CONTROL, ARMIES NOW UNITED IN THEIR GOAL OF TOPPLING THANOS, WHOM THANE SUBSEQUENTLY IMPRISONED IN A COFFIN OF AMBER.

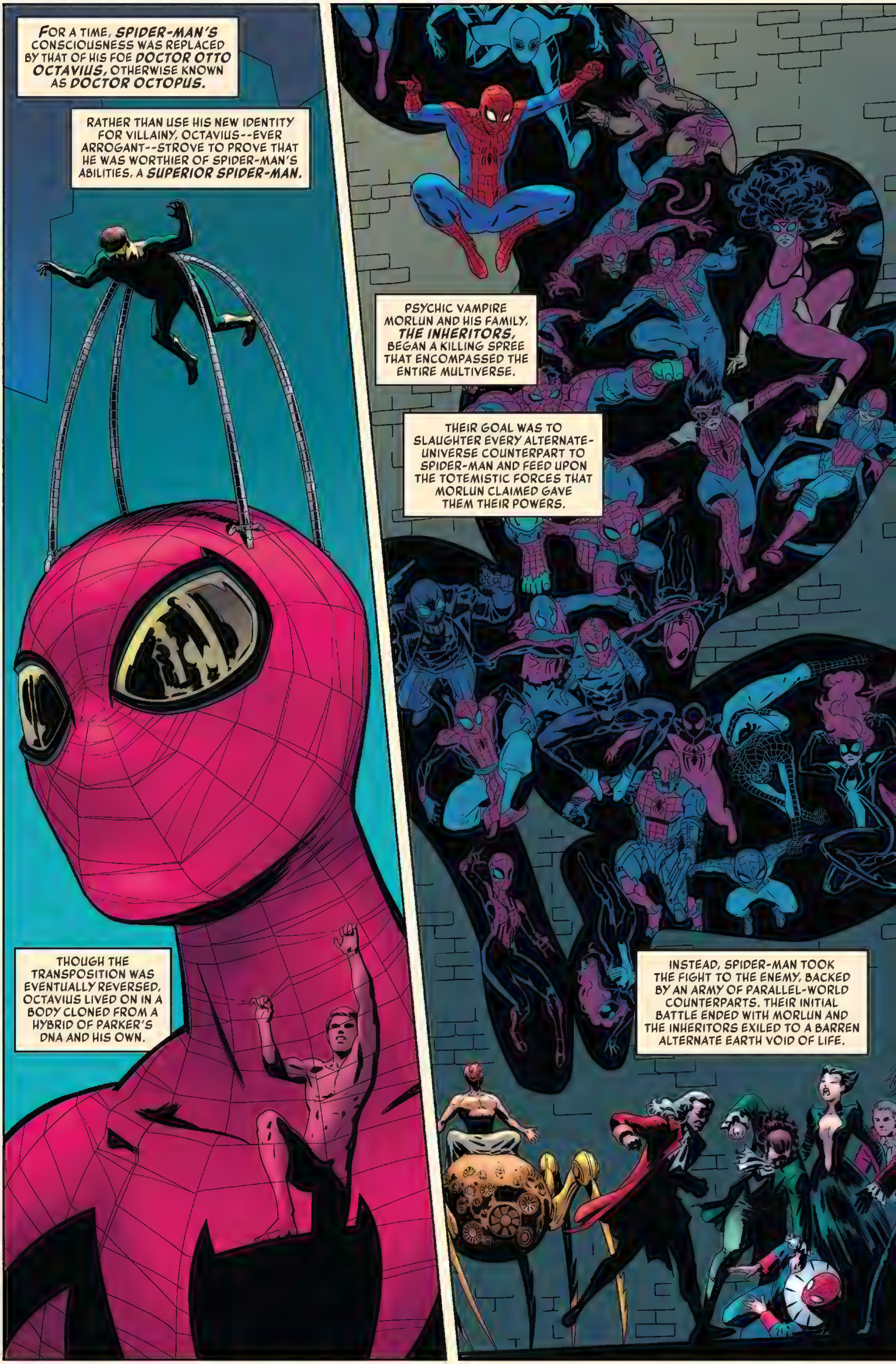


DURING THIS PERIOD, THANOS DESTROYED THE CITY OF ATTILAN. AS A RESULT, ITS TERRIGEN MISTS SPREAD ACROSS THE WORLD, MUTATING ANYONE WHOSE ANCESTORS HAD MATED WITH **INHUMANS** AND THUS CARRIED A RECESSIVE INHUMAN GENE.

THE MOST NOTABLE **TERRIGENESIS** TURNED PAKISTANI AMERICAN TEENAGER **KAMALA KHAN** INTO THE SIZE- AND SHAPE-CHANGING **MS. MARVEL.**


NICK FURY, IN HIS SECRET ROLE AS **THE MAN ON THE WALL**, CONFRONTED UATU TO DEMAND THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAD PLUNDERED THE WATCHER'S ARSENAL. UATU'S VOW OF NONINTERFERENCE, HOWEVER, BOUND HIM TO SECRECY DESPITE THE IMMINENT PERIL TO EARTH PRESENTED BY THE MISSING WEAPONS.
WITH COUNTLESS LIVES IN DANGER AND BELIEVING HIMSELF TO HAVE NO OTHER OPTION, FURY DID THE UNTHINKABLE: HE MURDERED UATU AND TOOK HIS EYE, WHICH CONTAINED THE SUM OF THE WATCHER'S VAST KNOWLEDGE.
AWARE HE FACED RETRIBUTION BY EARTH'S HEROES FOR HIS ACT OF HOMICIDE REGARDLESS OF ITS MOTIVE, FURY DISTRACTED THEM BY PRETENDING TO LEAD THE MURDER INVESTIGATION HIMSELF UNTIL THE ARSENAL'S THIEVES--**DOCTOR MIDAS** AND THE **ORB**--COULD BE IDENTIFIED AND APPREHENDED.
ONCE THE AVENGERS BEGAN TO SUSPECT THEY HAD BEEN DECEIVED, THEIR MOONSIDE CONFRONTATION WITH FURY TOOK AN ESPECIALLY HEAVY TOLL ON **THOR**. ESCAPING THE AVENGERS, FURY GOADED MIDAS INTO DESTROYING HIMSELF IN A BLAST THAT SEEMED TO CLAIM FURY AS WELL.
HIS FORMER FRIENDS WERE UNAWARE THAT FURY HAD INSTEAD ABSORBED UATU'S POWERS AND BECOME THE NEW WATCHER OF EARTH: **THE UNSEEN.**


DURING BATTLE, FURY HAD DEFEATED THOR MERELY BY WHISPERING THREE WORDS: ***"GORR WAS RIGHT."***
IT WAS A REFERENCE TO ONE OF THOR'S GREATEST ENEMIES, A FOE WHO HAD INSISTED THAT NO GOD, INCLUDING THE ASGARDIANS AND THOR HIMSELF, WAS AS WORTHY OF VENERATION AND POWER AS THEY HAD BELIEVED THEMSELVES TO BE.
POISONED BY DOUBT, THOR FOUND HIMSELF UNABLE TO LIFT MJOLNIR.
INSTEAD, THE HAMMER WAS CLAIMED BY ***DR. JANE FOSTER,*** ONE OF THOR'S EARLIEST MIDGARDIAN FRIENDS.
THOR HAD BEEN HEALTHY; JANE WAS NOT. HER BODY WAS RAVAGED BY CANCER, AND EACH TRANSFORMATION INTO THE NEW THOR SHORTENED HER MORTAL LIFE.
ANOTHER HERO SIMILARLY PASSED HIS MANTLE, THOUGH UNDER BRIGHTER CIRCUMSTANCES. DURING A BATTLE WITH THE ***IRON NAIL,*** THE SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM WITHIN STEVE ROGERS' BODY WAS NEUTRALIZED, CAUSING HIM TO AGE RAPIDLY.
PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO MAINTAIN HIS BATTLEFIELD PROWESS, ROGERS APPOINTED ***SAM WILSON*** --FORMERLY ROGERS' PARTNER ***THE FALCON***-- AS HIS REPLACEMENT.



FOR A TIME, ***SPIDER-MAN'S*** CONSCIOUSNESS WAS REPLACED BY THAT OF HIS FOE ***DOCTOR OTTO OCTAVIUS,*** OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ***DOCTOR OCTOPUS.***

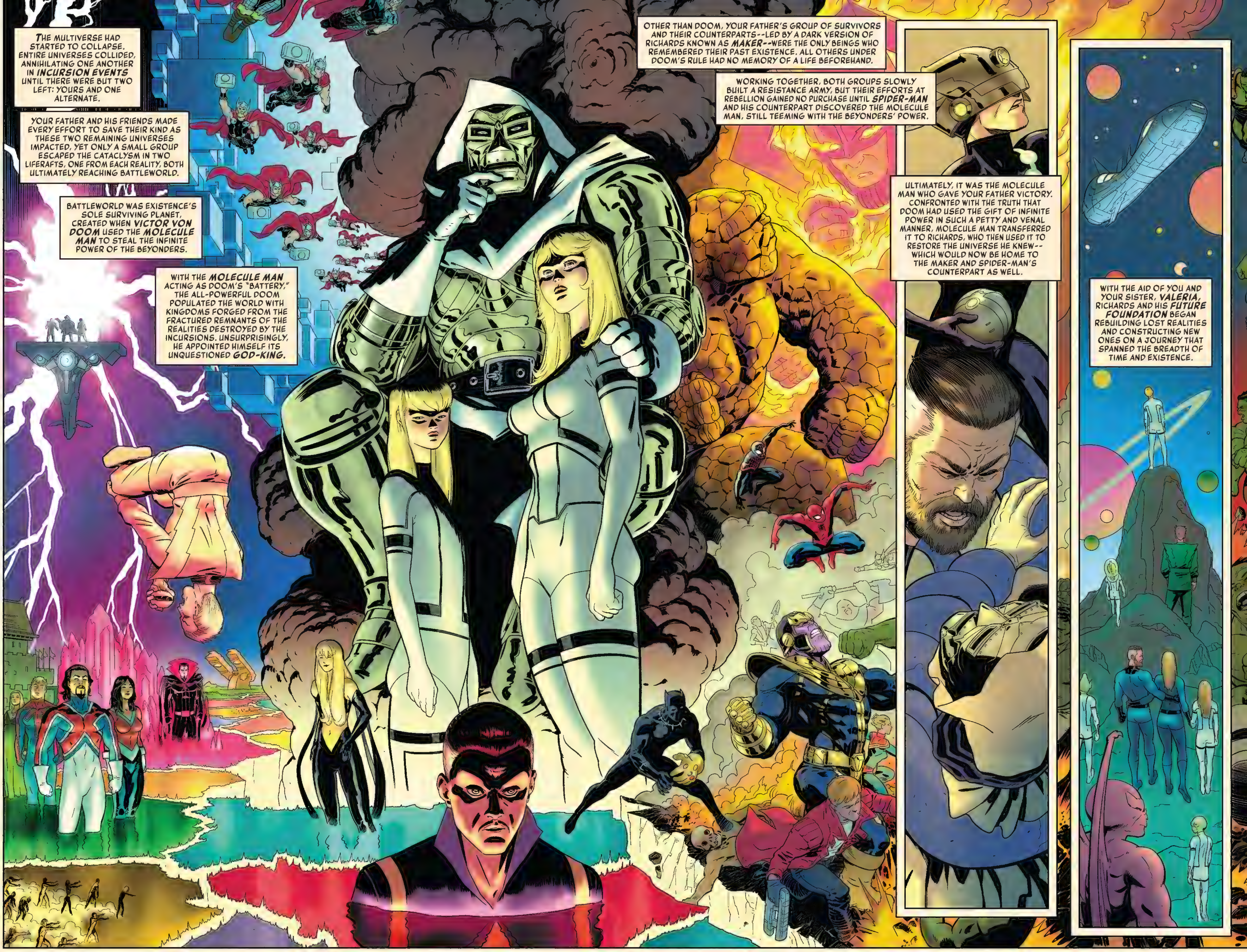
RATHER THAN USE HIS NEW IDENTITY FOR VILLAINY, OCTAVIUS--EVER ARROGANT--STROVE TO PROVE THAT HE WAS WORTHIER OF SPIDER-MAN'S ABILITIES, A ***SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN.***

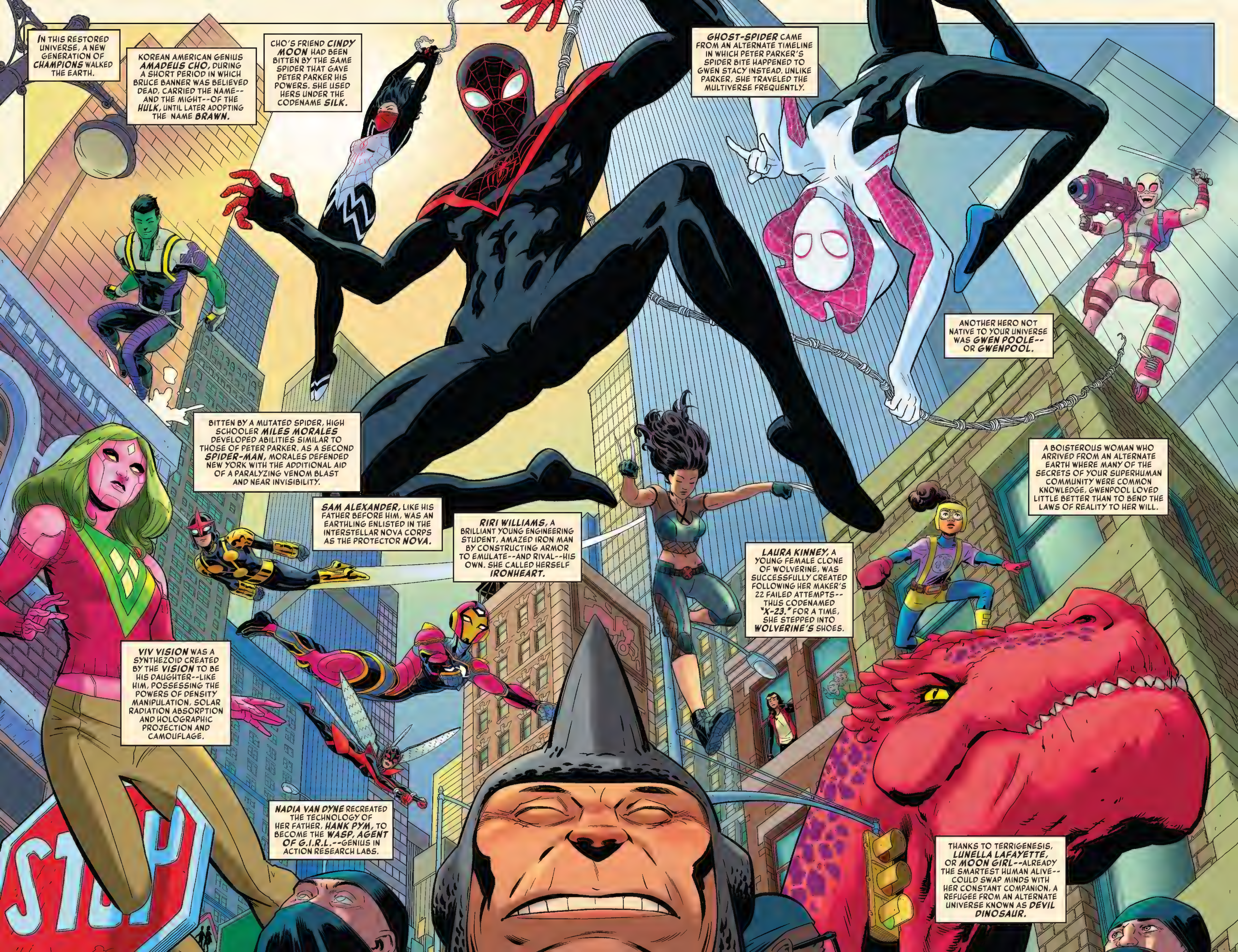
THOUGH THE TRANSPOSITION WAS EVENTUALLY REVERSED, OCTAVIUS LIVED ON IN A BODY CLONED FROM A HYBRID OF PARKER'S DNA AND HIS OWN.

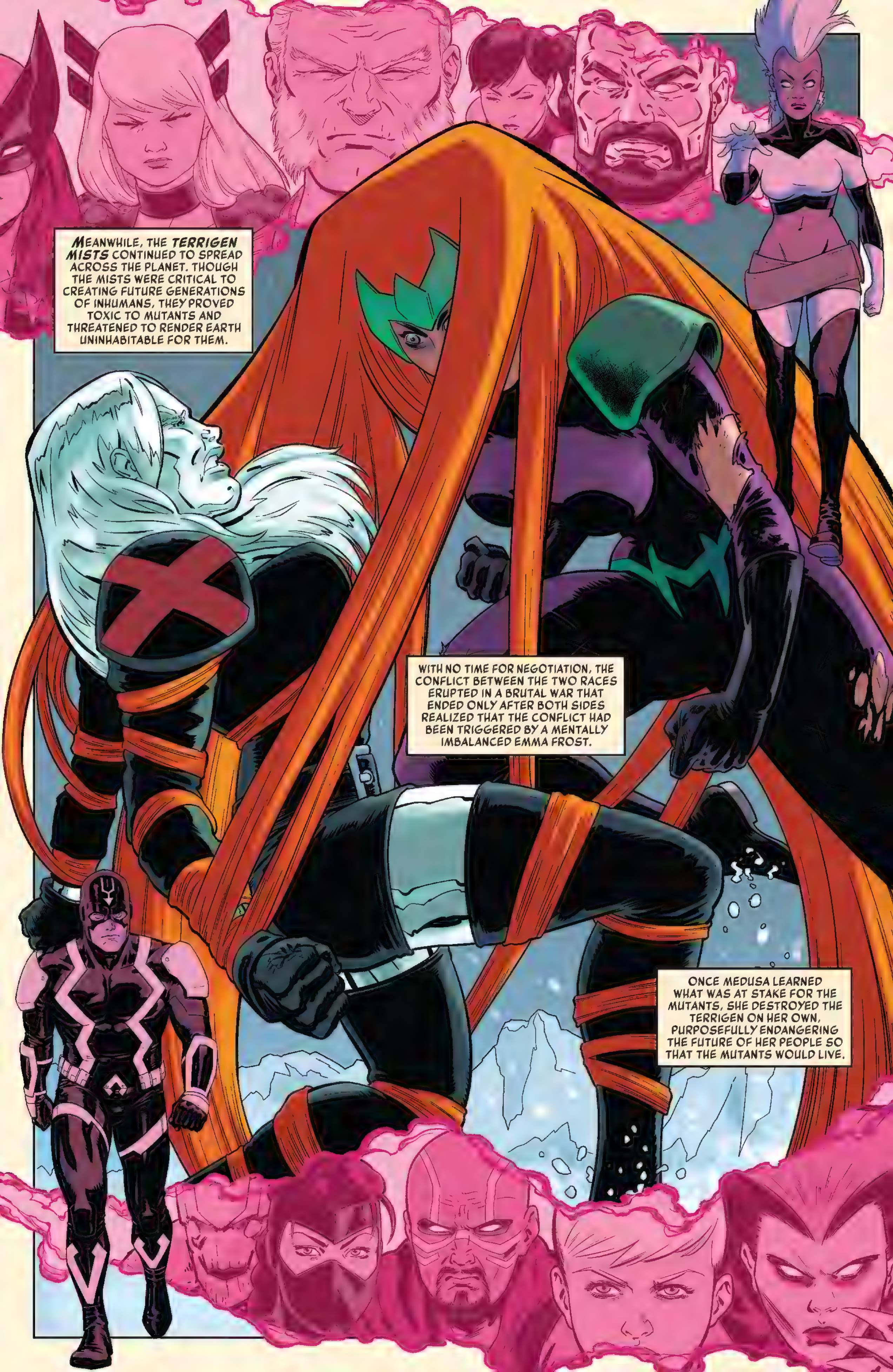
PSYCHIC VAMPIRE MORLUN AND HIS FAMILY, ***THE INHERITORS,*** BEGAN A KILLING SPREE THAT ENCOMPASSED THE ENTIRE MULTIVERSE.

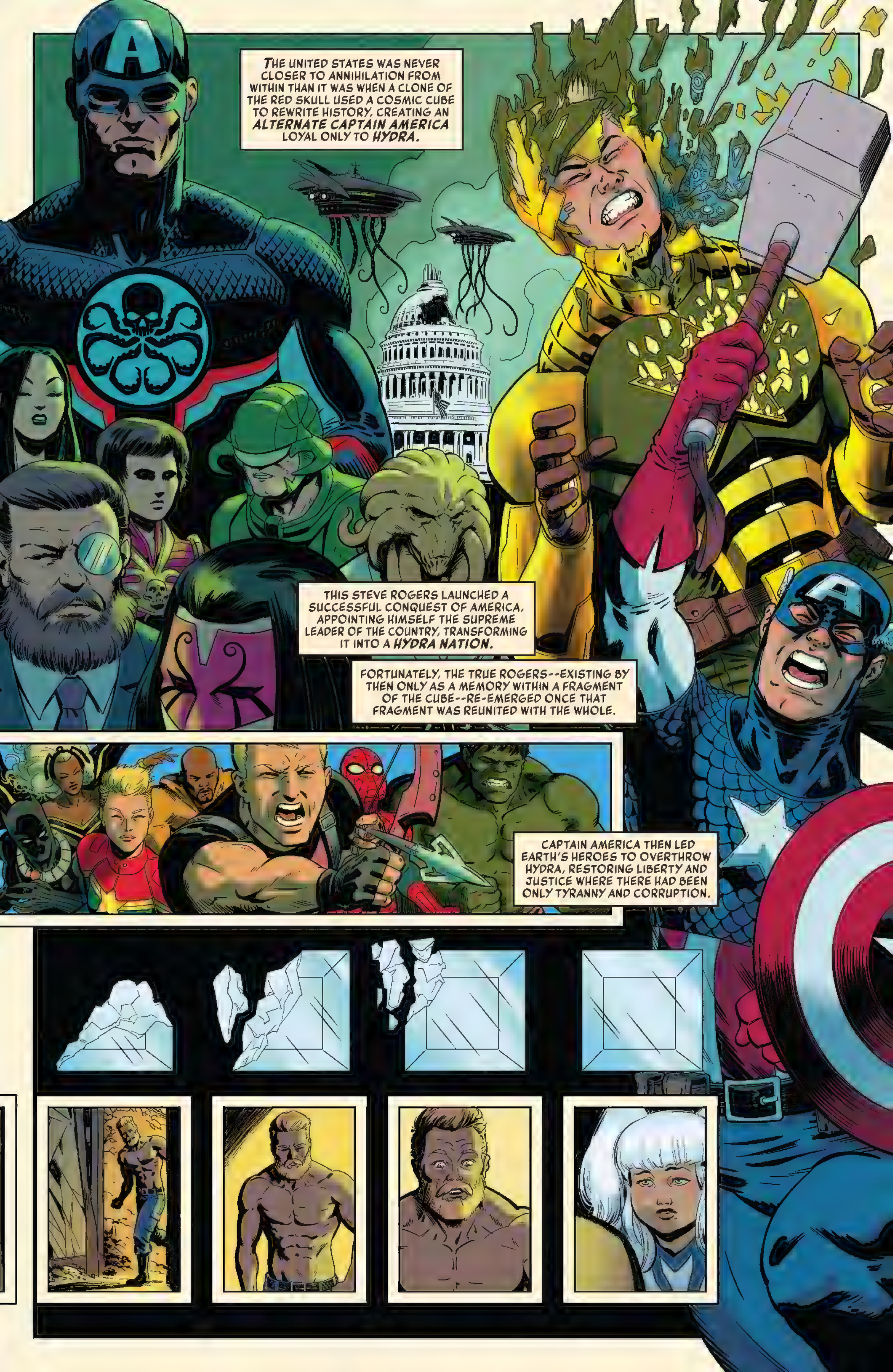
THEIR GOAL WAS TO SLAUGHTER EVERY ALTERNATE-UNIVERSE COUNTERPART TO SPIDER-MAN AND FEED UPON THE TOTEMISTIC FORCES THAT MORLUN CLAIMED GAVE THEM THEIR POWERS.

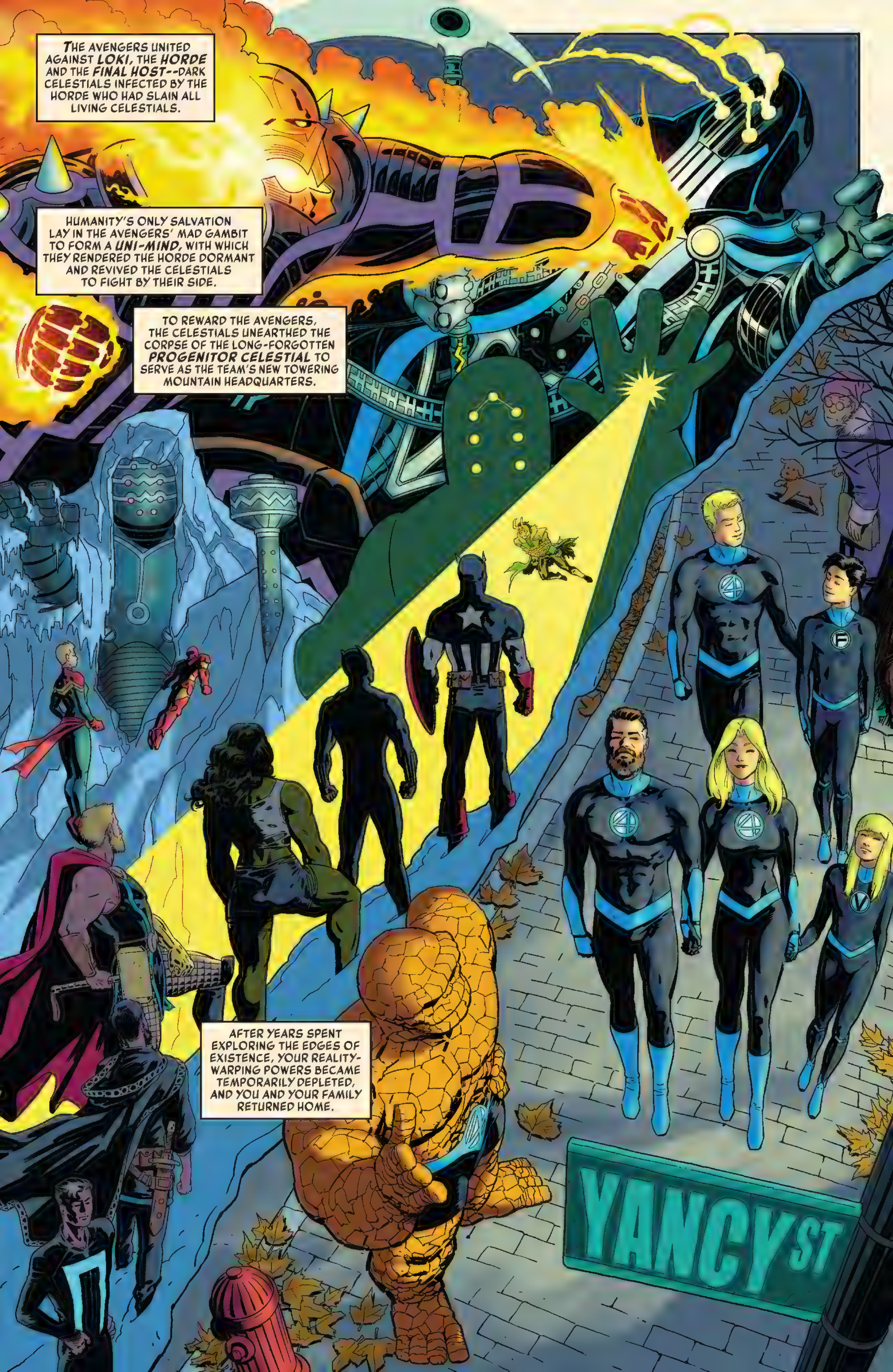
INSTEAD, SPIDER-MAN TOOK THE FIGHT TO THE ENEMY, BACKED BY AN ARMY OF PARALLEL-WORLD COUNTERPARTS. THEIR INITIAL BATTLE ENDED WITH MORLUN AND THE INHERITORS EXILED TO A BARREN ALTERNATE EARTH VOID OF LIFE.

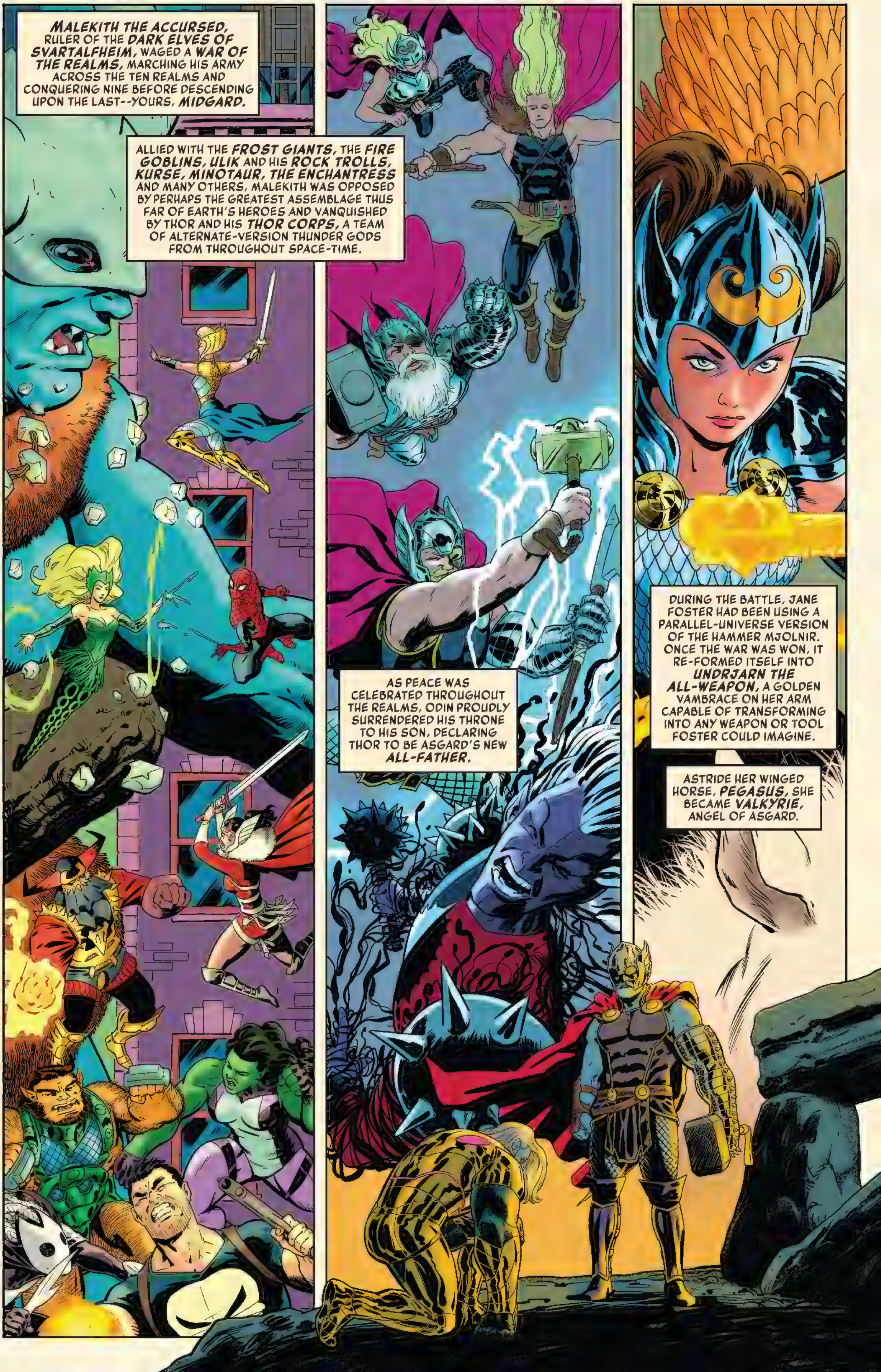

THE MULTIVERSE HAD STARTED TO COLLAPSE. ENTIRE UNIVERSES COLLIDED, ANNIHILATING ONE ANOTHER IN **INCURSION EVENTS** UNTIL THERE WERE BUT TWO LEFT: YOURS AND ONE ALTERNATE.
YOUR FATHER AND HIS FRIENDS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO SAVE THEIR KIND AS THESE TWO REMAINING UNIVERSES IMPACTED, YET ONLY A SMALL GROUP ESCAPED THE CATACLYSM IN TWO LIFERAFTS, ONE FROM EACH REALITY, BOTH ULTIMATELY REACHING BATTLEWORLD.
BATTLEWORLD WAS EXISTENCE'S SOLE SURVIVING PLANET, CREATED WHEN **VICTOR VON DOOM** USED THE **MOLECULE MAN** TO STEAL THE INFINITE POWER OF THE BEYONDERS.
WITH THE **MOLECULE MAN** ACTING AS DOOM'S "BATTERY," THE ALL-POWERFUL DOOM POPULATED THE WORLD WITH KINGDOMS FORGED FROM THE FRACTURED REMNANTS OF THE REALITIES DESTROYED BY THE INCURSIONS. UNSURPRISINGLY, HE APPOINTED HIMSELF ITS UNQUESTIONED **GOD-KING.**
OTHER THAN DOOM, YOUR FATHER'S GROUP OF SURVIVORS AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS--LED BY A DARK VERSION OF RICHARDS KNOWN AS **MAKER**--WERE THE ONLY BEINGS WHO REMEMBERED THEIR PAST EXISTENCE. ALL OTHERS UNDER DOOM'S RULE HAD NO MEMORY OF A LIFE BEFOREHAND.
WORKING TOGETHER, BOTH GROUPS SLOWLY BUILT A RESISTANCE ARMY, BUT THEIR EFFORTS AT REBELLION GAINED NO PURCHASE UNTIL **SPIDER-MAN** AND HIS COUNTERPART DISCOVERED THE MOLECULE MAN, STILL TEEMING WITH THE BEYONDERS' POWER.
ULTIMATELY, IT WAS THE MOLECULE MAN WHO GAVE YOUR FATHER VICTORY. CONFRONTED WITH THE TRUTH THAT DOOM HAD USED THE GIFT OF INFINITE POWER IN SUCH A PETTY AND VENAL MANNER, MOLECULE MAN TRANSFERRED IT TO RICHARDS, WHO THEN USED IT TO RESTORE THE UNIVERSE HE KNEW--WHICH WOULD NOW BE HOME TO THE MAKER AND SPIDER-MAN'S COUNTERPART AS WELL.
WITH THE AID OF YOU AND YOUR SISTER, **VALERIA**, RICHARDS AND HIS **FUTURE FOUNDATION** BEGAN REBUILDING LOST REALITIES AND CONSTRUCTING NEW ONES ON A JOURNEY THAT SPANNED THE BREADTH OF TIME AND EXISTENCE.

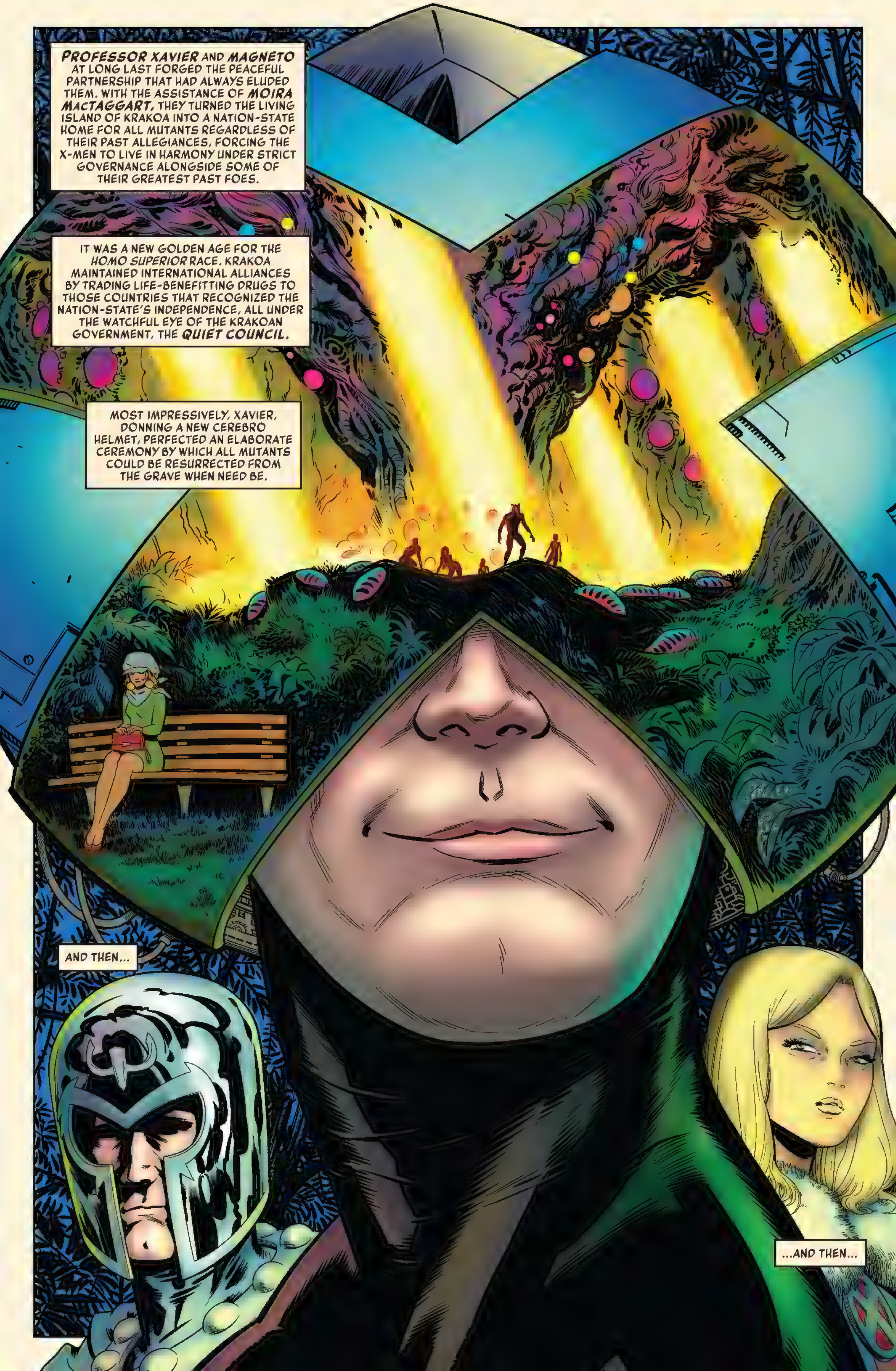

IN THIS RESTORED UNIVERSE, A NEW GENERATION OF **CHAMPIONS** WALKED THE EARTH.
KOREAN AMERICAN GENIUS **AMADEUS CHO**, DURING A SHORT PERIOD IN WHICH BRUCE BANNER WAS BELIEVED DEAD, CARRIED THE NAME-- AND THE MIGHT--OF THE **HULK**, UNTIL LATER ADOPTING THE NAME **BRAWN.**
CHO'S FRIEND **CINDY MOON** HAD BEEN BITTEN BY THE SAME SPIDER THAT GAVE PETER PARKER HIS POWERS. SHE USED HERS UNDER THE CODENAME **SILK.**
GHOST-SPIDER CAME FROM AN ALTERNATE TIMELINE IN WHICH PETER PARKER'S SPIDER BITE HAPPENED TO GWEN STACY INSTEAD. UNLIKE PARKER, SHE TRAVELED THE MULTIVERSE FREQUENTLY.
ANOTHER HERO NOT NATIVE TO YOUR UNIVERSE WAS **GWEN POOLE--** OR **GWENPOOL.**
BITTEN BY A MUTATED SPIDER, HIGH SCHOOLER **MILES MORALES** DEVELOPED ABILITIES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF PETER PARKER. AS A SECOND **SPIDER-MAN**, MORALES DEFENDED NEW YORK WITH THE ADDITIONAL AID OF A PARALYZING VENOM BLAST AND NEAR INVISIBILITY.
A BOISTEROUS WOMAN WHO ARRIVED FROM AN ALTERNATE EARTH WHERE MANY OF THE SECRETS OF YOUR SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY WERE COMMON KNOWLEDGE, GWENPOOL LOVED LITTLE BETTER THAN TO BEND THE LAWS OF REALITY TO HER WILL.
SAM ALEXANDER, LIKE HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM, WAS AN EARTHLING ENLISTED IN THE INTERSTELLAR NOVA CORPS AS THE PROTECTOR **NOVA.**
RIRI WILLIAMS, A BRILLIANT YOUNG ENGINEERING STUDENT, AMAZED IRON MAN BY CONSTRUCTING ARMOR TO EMULATE--AND RIVAL--HIS OWN. SHE CALLED HERSELF **IRONHEART.**
LAURA KINNEY, A YOUNG FEMALE CLONE OF WOLVERINE, WAS SUCCESSFULLY CREATED FOLLOWING HER MAKER'S 22 FAILED ATTEMPTS-- THUS CODENAMED **"X-23."** FOR A TIME, SHE STEPPED INTO **WOLVERINE'S** SHOES.
VIV VISION WAS A SYNTHEZOID CREATED BY THE **VISION** TO BE HIS DAUGHTER--LIKE HIM, POSSESSING THE POWERS OF DENSITY MANIPULATION, SOLAR RADIATION ABSORPTION AND HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION AND CAMOUFLAGE.
NADIA VAN DYNE RECREATED THE TECHNOLOGY OF HER FATHER, **HANK PYM**, TO BECOME THE **WASP, AGENT OF G.I.R.L.**--GENIUS IN ACTION RESEARCH LABS.
THANKS TO TERRIGENESIS, **LUNELLA LAFAYETTE**, OR **MOON GIRL**--ALREADY THE SMARTEST HUMAN ALIVE-- COULD SWAP MINDS WITH HER CONSTANT COMPANION, A REFUGEE FROM AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE KNOWN AS **DEVIL DINOSAUR.**
STOP

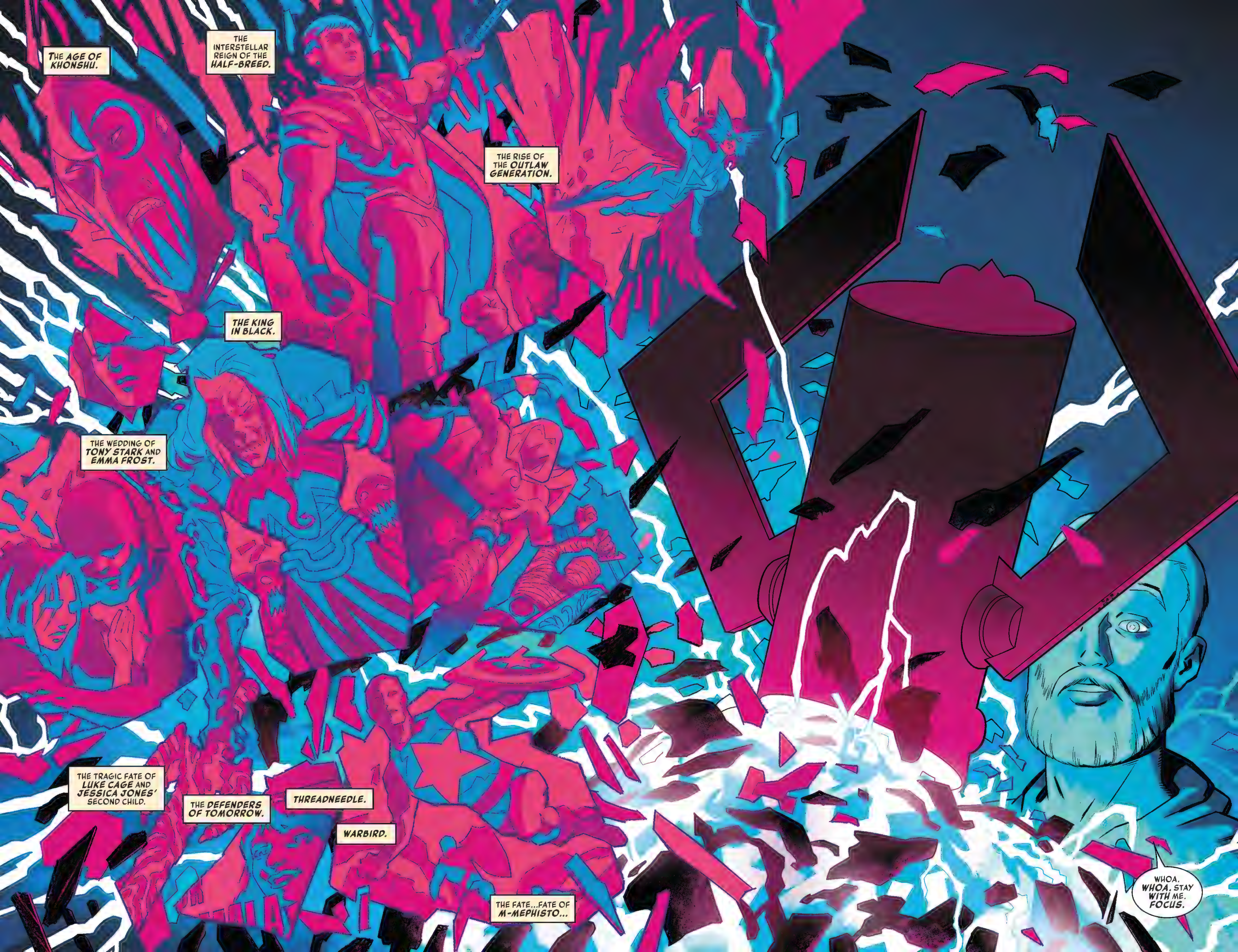

MEANWHILE, THE **TERRIGEN MISTS** CONTINUED TO SPREAD ACROSS THE PLANET. THOUGH THE MISTS WERE CRITICAL TO CREATING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF INHUMANS, THEY PROVED TOXIC TO MUTANTS AND THREATENED TO RENDER EARTH UNINHABITABLE FOR THEM.
WITH NO TIME FOR NEGOTIATION, THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO RACES ERUPTED IN A BRUTAL WAR THAT ENDED ONLY AFTER BOTH SIDES REALIZED THAT THE CONFLICT HAD BEEN TRIGGERED BY A MENTALLY IMBALANCED EMMA FROST.
ONCE MEDUSA LEARNED WHAT WAS AT STAKE FOR THE MUTANTS, SHE DESTROYED THE TERRIGEN ON HER OWN, PURPOSEFULLY ENDANGERING THE FUTURE OF HER PEOPLE SO THAT THE MUTANTS WOULD LIVE.

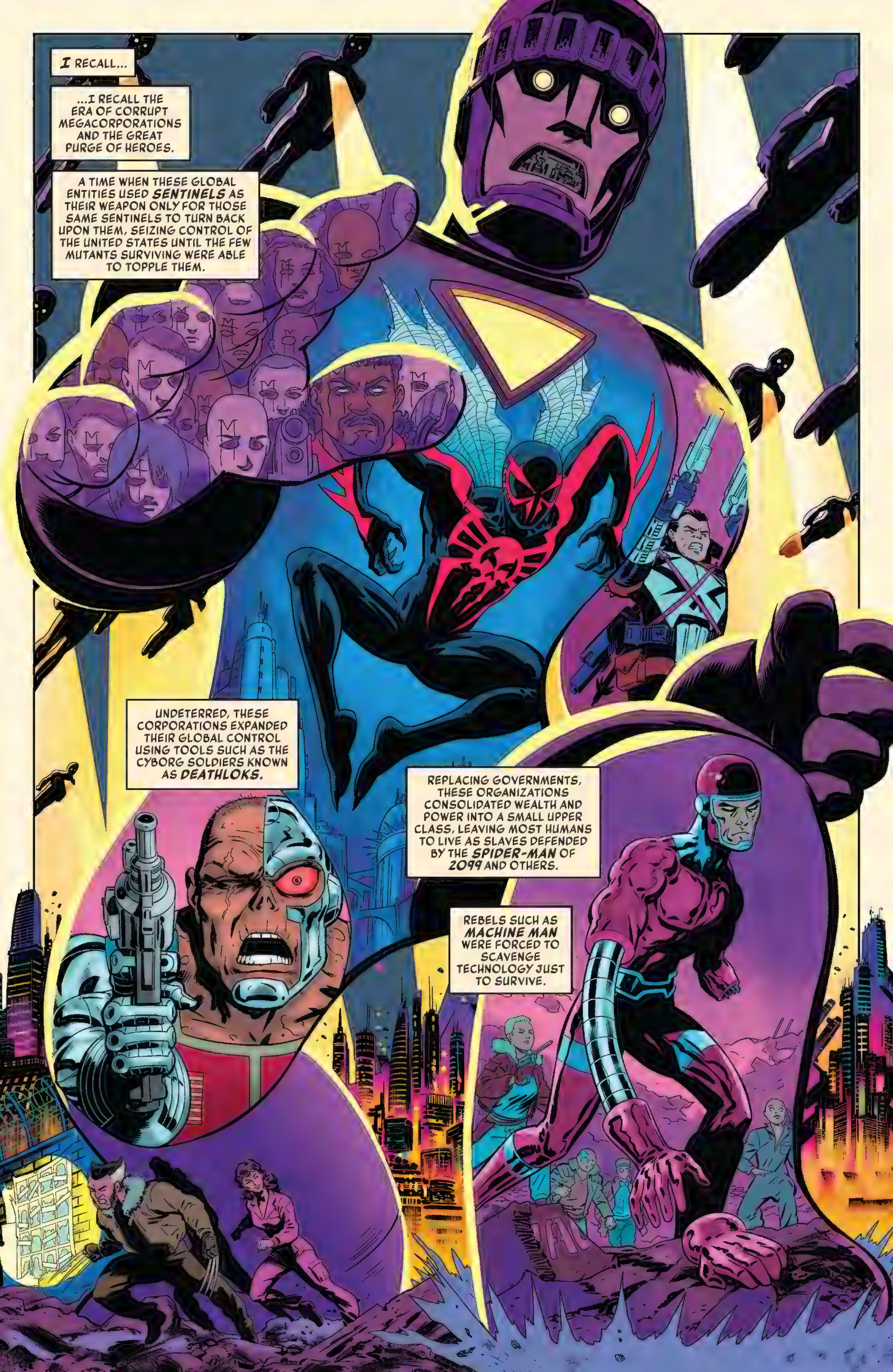

THE UNITED STATES WAS NEVER CLOSER TO ANNIHILATION FROM WITHIN THAN IT WAS WHEN A CLONE OF THE RED SKULL USED A COSMIC CUBE TO REWRITE HISTORY, CREATING AN **ALTERNATE CAPTAIN AMERICA** LOYAL ONLY TO **HYDRA.**
THIS STEVE ROGERS LAUNCHED A SUCCESSFUL CONQUEST OF AMERICA, APPOINTING HIMSELF THE SUPREME LEADER OF THE COUNTRY, TRANSFORMING IT INTO A **HYDRA NATION.**
FORTUNATELY, THE TRUE ROGERS--EXISTING BY THEN ONLY AS A MEMORY WITHIN A FRAGMENT OF THE CUBE--RE-EMERGED ONCE THAT FRAGMENT WAS REUNITED WITH THE WHOLE.
CAPTAIN AMERICA THEN LED EARTH'S HEROES TO OVERTHROW HYDRA, RESTORING LIBERTY AND JUSTICE WHERE THERE HAD BEEN ONLY TYRANNY AND CORRUPTION.

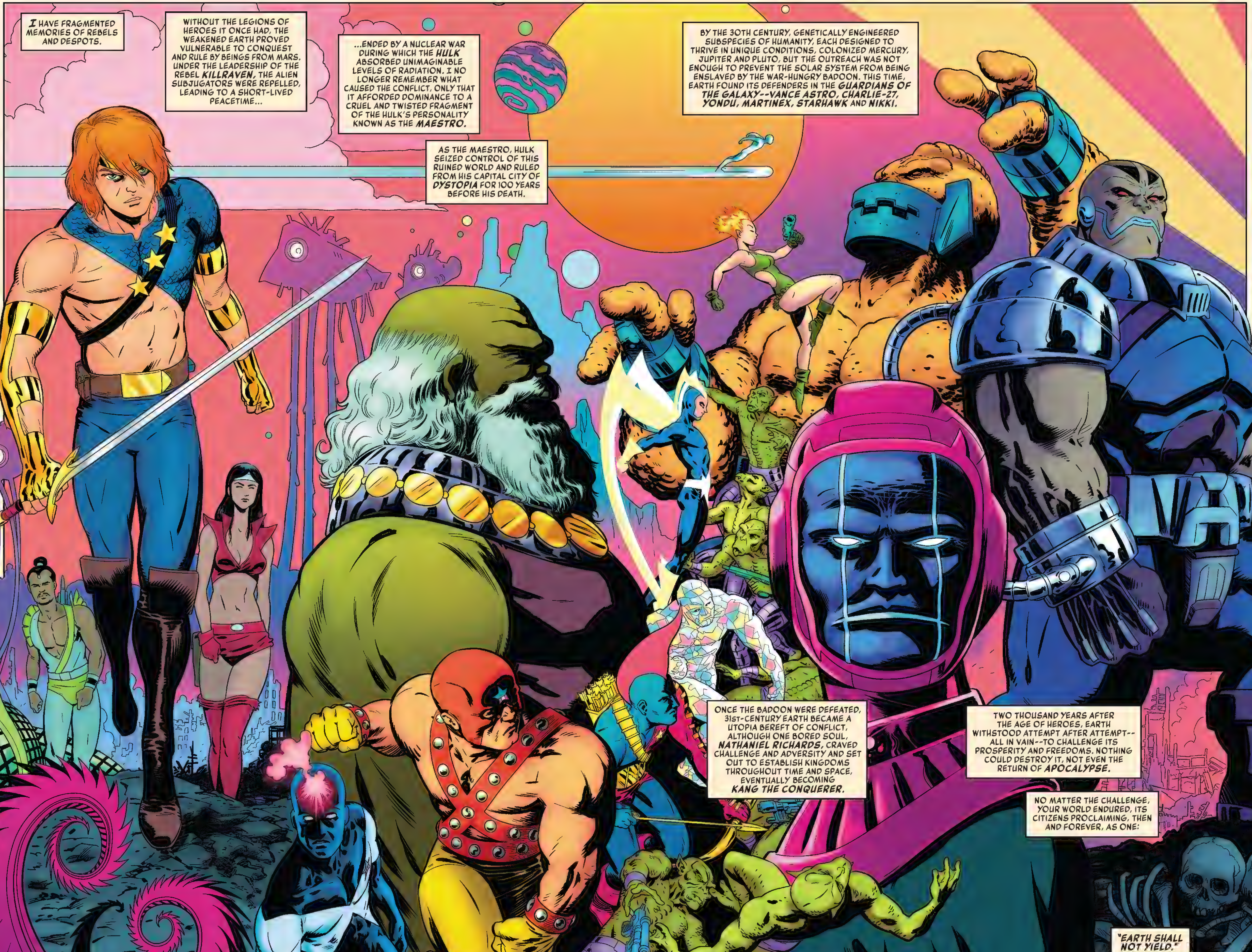

THE AVENGERS UNITED AGAINST **LOKI**, THE **HORDE** AND THE **FINAL HOST**--DARK CELESTIALS INFECTED BY THE HORDE WHO HAD SLAIN ALL LIVING CELESTIALS.
HUMANITY'S ONLY SALVATION LAY IN THE AVENGERS' MAD GAMBIT TO FORM A **UNI-MIND**, WITH WHICH THEY RENDERED THE HORDE DORMANT AND REVIVED THE CELESTIALS TO FIGHT BY THEIR SIDE.
TO REWARD THE AVENGERS, THE CELESTIALS UNEARTHED THE CORPSE OF THE LONG-FORGOTTEN **PROGENITOR CELESTIAL** TO SERVE AS THE TEAM'S NEW TOWERING MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS.
AFTER YEARS SPENT EXPLORING THE EDGES OF EXISTENCE, YOUR REALITY-WARPING POWERS BECAME TEMPORARILY DEPLETED, AND YOU AND YOUR FAMILY RETURNED HOME.
YANCY ST


MALEKITH THE ACCURSED, RULER OF THE DARK ELVES OF SVARTALFHEIM, WAGED A WAR OF THE REALMS, MARCHING HIS ARMY ACROSS THE TEN REALMS AND CONQUERING NINE BEFORE DESCENDING UPON THE LAST--YOURS, MIDGARD.
ALLIED WITH THE FROST GIANTS, THE FIRE GOBLINS, ULIK AND HIS ROCK TROLLS, KURSE, MINOTAUR, THE ENCHANTRESS AND MANY OTHERS, MALEKITH WAS OPPOSED BY PERHAPS THE GREATEST ASSEMBLAGE THUS FAR OF EARTH'S HEROES AND VANQUISHED BY THOR AND HIS THOR CORPS, A TEAM OF ALTERNATE-VERSION THUNDER GODS FROM THROUGHOUT SPACE-TIME.
AS PEACE WAS CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE REALMS, ODIN PROUDLY SURRENDERED HIS THRONE TO HIS SON, DECLARING THOR TO BE ASGARD'S NEW ALL-FATHER.
DURING THE BATTLE, JANE FOSTER HAD BEEN USING A PARALLEL-UNIVERSE VERSION OF THE HAMMER MJOLNIR. ONCE THE WAR WAS WON, IT RE-FORMED ITSELF INTO UNDRJARN THE ALL-WEAPON, A GOLDEN VAMBRACE ON HER ARM CAPABLE OF TRANSFORMING INTO ANY WEAPON OR TOOL FOSTER COULD IMAGINE.
ASTRIDE HER WINGED HORSE, PEGASUS, SHE BECAME VALKYRIE, ANGEL OF ASGARD.

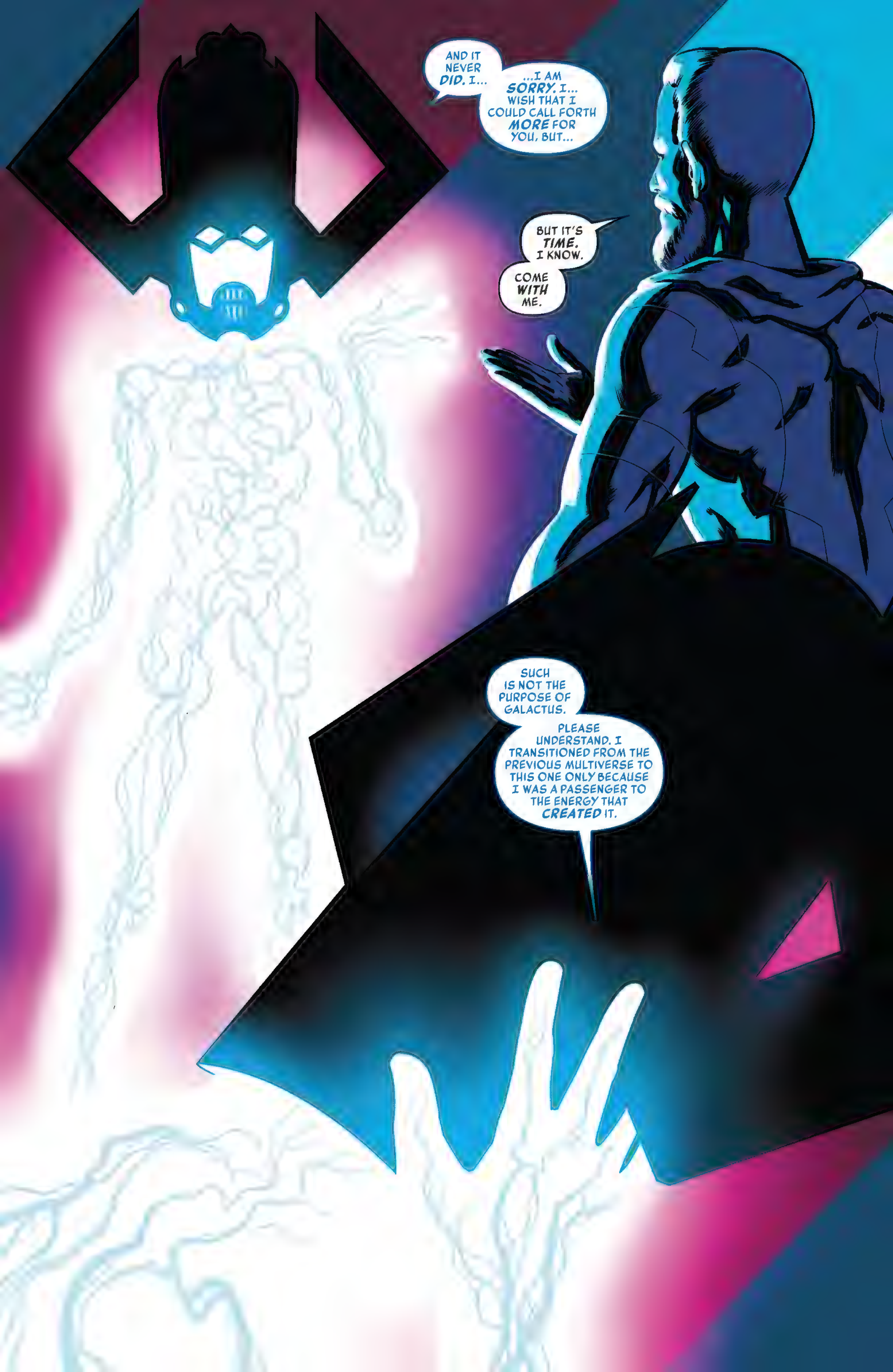

PROFESSOR XAVIER AND **MAGNETO** AT LONG LAST FORGED THE PEACEFUL PARTNERSHIP THAT HAD ALWAYS ELUDED THEM. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF **MOIRA MACTAGGART,** THEY TURNED THE LIVING ISLAND OF KRAKOA INTO A NATION-STATE HOME FOR ALL MUTANTS REGARDLESS OF THEIR PAST ALLEGIANCES, FORCING THE X-MEN TO LIVE IN HARMONY UNDER STRICT GOVERNANCE ALONGSIDE SOME OF THEIR GREATEST PAST FOES.
IT WAS A NEW GOLDEN AGE FOR THE *HOMO SUPERIOR* RACE. KRAKOA MAINTAINED INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES BY TRADING LIFE-BENEFITTING DRUGS TO THOSE COUNTRIES THAT RECOGNIZED THE NATION-STATE'S INDEPENDENCE, ALL UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF THE KRAKOAN GOVERNMENT, THE **QUIET COUNCIL.**
MOST IMPRESSIVELY, XAVIER, DONNING A NEW CEREBRO HELMET, PERFECTED AN ELABORATE CEREMONY BY WHICH ALL MUTANTS COULD BE RESURRECTED FROM THE GRAVE WHEN NEED BE.
AND THEN...
...AND THEN...

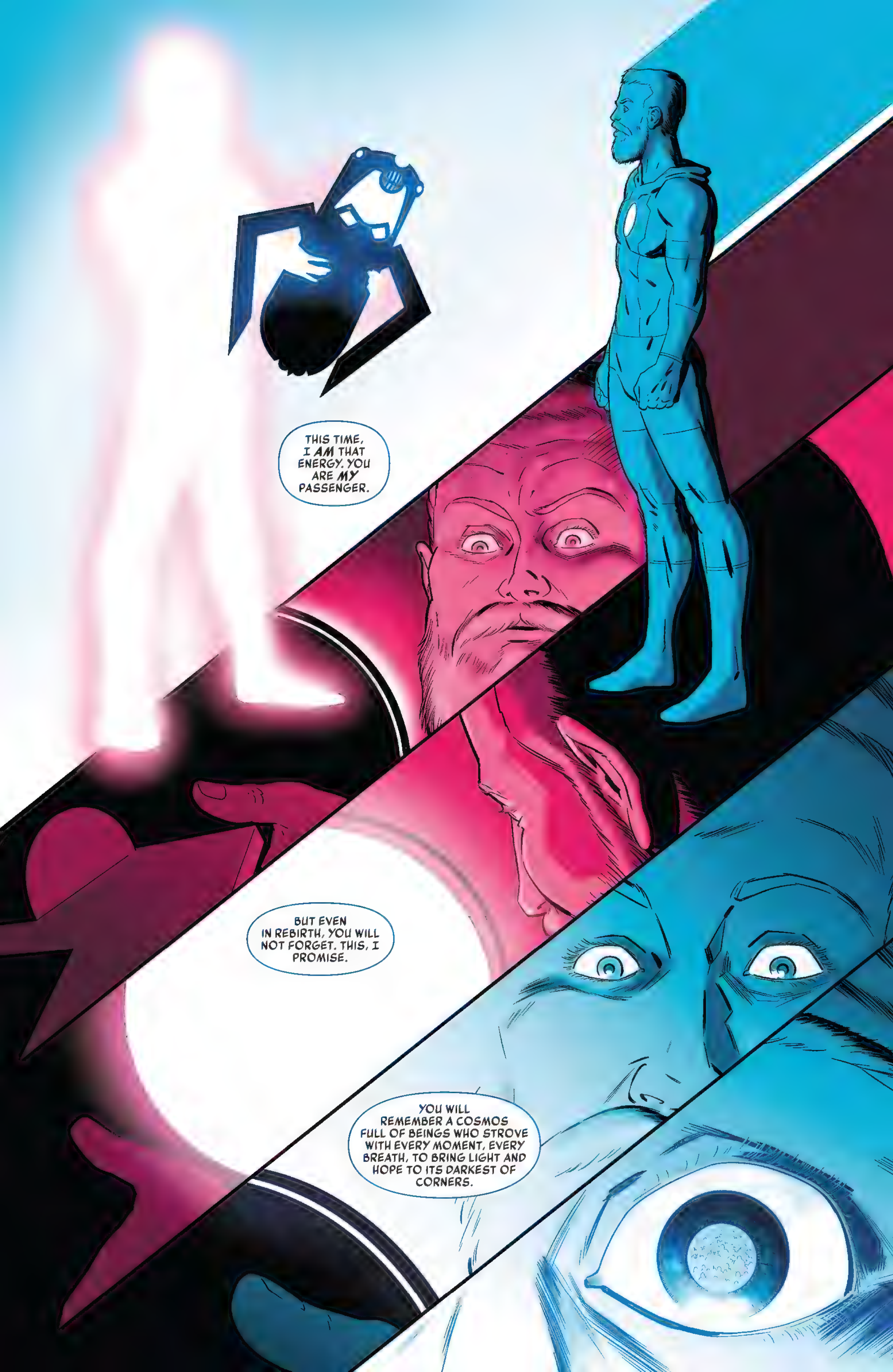

THE AGE OF KHONSHU.
THE INTERSTELLAR REIGN OF THE HALF-BREED.
THE RISE OF THE OUTLAW GENERATION.
THE KING IN BLACK.
THE WEDDING OF TONY STARK AND EMMA FROST.
THE TRAGIC FATE OF LUKE CAGE AND JESSICA JONES' SECOND CHILD.
THE DEFENDERS OF TOMORROW.
THREADNEEDLE.
WARBIRD.
THE FATE...FATE OF M-MEPHISTO...
WHOA. WHOA. STAY WITH ME. FOCUS.

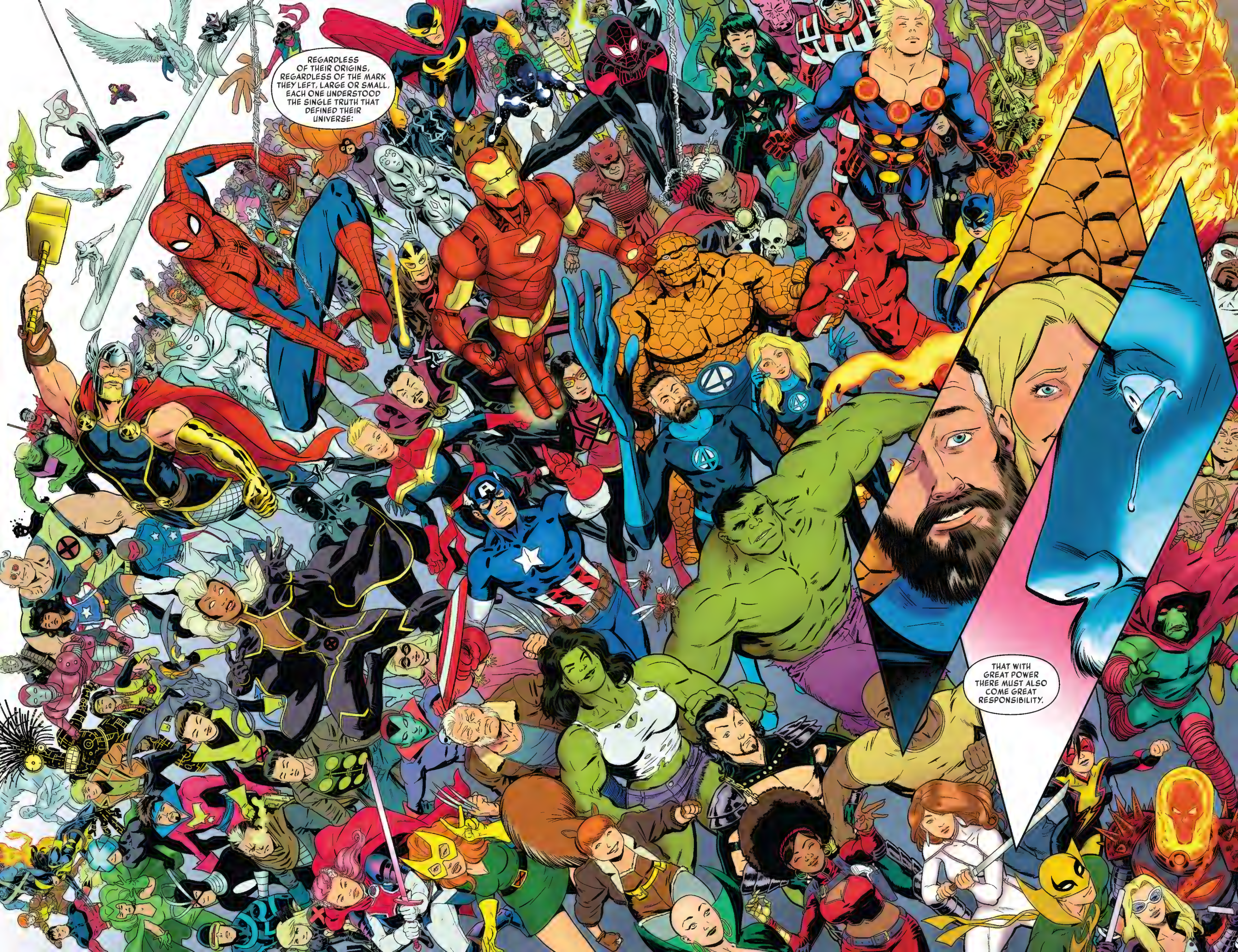

I RECALL...
...I RECALL THE ERA OF CORRUPT MEGACORPORATIONS AND THE GREAT PURGE OF HEROES.
A TIME WHEN THESE GLOBAL ENTITIES USED **SENTINELS** AS THEIR WEAPON ONLY FOR THOSE SAME SENTINELS TO TURN BACK UPON THEM, SEIZING CONTROL OF THE UNITED STATES UNTIL THE FEW MUTANTS SURVIVING WERE ABLE TO TOPPLE THEM.
UNDETERRED, THESE CORPORATIONS EXPANDED THEIR GLOBAL CONTROL USING TOOLS SUCH AS THE CYBORG SOLDIERS KNOWN AS **DEATHLOKS.**
REPLACING GOVERNMENTS, THESE ORGANIZATIONS CONSOLIDATED WEALTH AND POWER INTO A SMALL UPPER CLASS, LEAVING MOST HUMANS TO LIVE AS SLAVES DEFENDED BY THE **SPIDER-MAN** OF **2099** AND OTHERS.
REBELS SUCH AS **MACHINE MAN** WERE FORCED TO SCAVENGE TECHNOLOGY JUST TO SURVIVE.

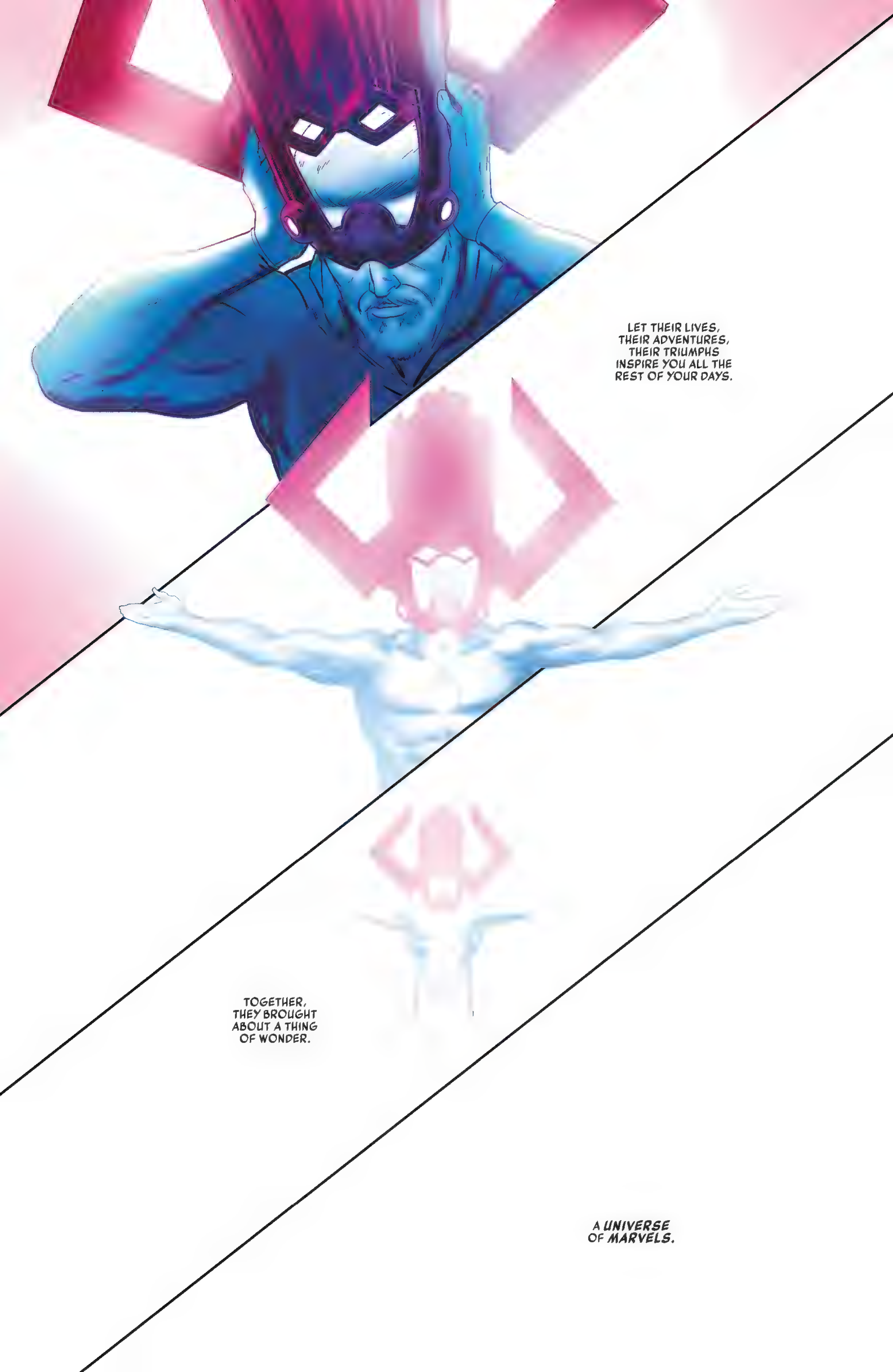


I HAVE FRAGMENTED MEMORIES OF REBELS AND DESPOTS.
WITHOUT THE LEGIONS OF HEROES IT ONCE HAD, THE WEAKENED EARTH PROVED VULNERABLE TO CONQUEST AND RULE BY BEINGS FROM MARS. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REBEL KILLRAVEN, THE ALIEN SUBJUGATORS WERE REPELLED, LEADING TO A SHORT-LIVED PEACETIME...
...ENDED BY A NUCLEAR WAR DURING WHICH THE HULK ABSORBED UNIMAGINABLE LEVELS OF RADIATION. I NO LONGER REMEMBER WHAT CAUSED THE CONFLICT, ONLY THAT IT AFFORDED DOMINANCE TO A CRUEL AND TWISTED FRAGMENT OF THE HULK'S PERSONALITY KNOWN AS THE MAESTRO.
AS THE MAESTRO, HULK SEIZED CONTROL OF THIS RUINED WORLD AND RULED FROM HIS CAPITAL CITY OF DYSTOPIA FOR 100 YEARS BEFORE HIS DEATH.
BY THE 30TH CENTURY, GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SUBSPECIES OF HUMANITY, EACH DESIGNED TO THRIVE IN UNIQUE CONDITIONS, COLONIZED MERCURY, JUPITER AND PLUTO, BUT THE OUTREACH WAS NOT ENOUGH TO PREVENT THE SOLAR SYSTEM FROM BEING ENSLAVED BY THE WAR-HUNGRY BADOON. THIS TIME, EARTH FOUND ITS DEFENDERS IN THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY--VANCE ASTRO, CHARLIE-27, YONDU, MARTINEX, STARHAWK AND NIKKI.
ONCE THE BADOON WERE DEFEATED, 31st-CENTURY EARTH BECAME A UTOPIA BEREFT OF CONFLICT, ALTHOUGH ONE BORED SOUL, NATHANIEL RICHARDS, CRAVED CHALLENGE AND ADVERSITY AND SET OUT TO ESTABLISH KINGDOMS THROUGHOUT TIME AND SPACE, EVENTUALLY BECOMING KANG THE CONQUERER.
TWO THOUSAND YEARS AFTER THE AGE OF HEROES, EARTH WITHSTOOD ATTEMPT AFTER ATTEMPT-- ALL IN VAIN--TO CHALLENGE ITS PROSPERITY AND FREEDOMS. NOTHING COULD DESTROY IT, NOT EVEN THE RETURN OF APOCALYPSE.
NO MATTER THE CHALLENGE, YOUR WORLD ENDURED, ITS CITIZENS PROCLAIMING, THEN AND FOREVER, AS ONE:
"EARTH SHALL NOT YIELD."


AND IT NEVER *DID.* I...
...I AM *SORRY.* I... WISH THAT I COULD CALL FORTH *MORE* FOR YOU, BUT...
BUT IT'S *TIME.* I KNOW.
COME *WITH* ME.
SUCH IS NOT THE PURPOSE OF GALACTUS.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND. I TRANSITIONED FROM THE PREVIOUS MULTIVERSE TO THIS ONE ONLY BECAUSE I WAS A PASSENGER TO THE ENERGY THAT *CREATED* IT.

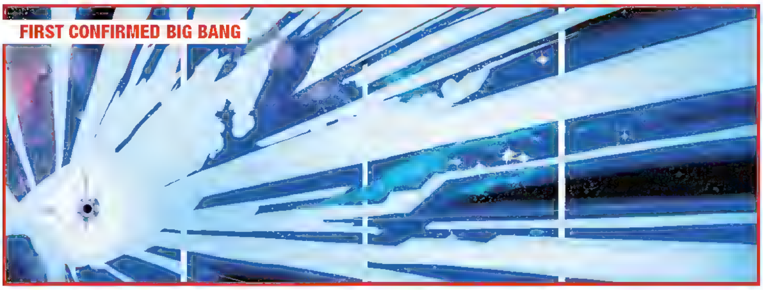

THIS TIME, I *AM* THAT ENERGY. YOU ARE *MY* PASSENGER.
BUT EVEN IN REBIRTH, YOU WILL NOT FORGET. THIS, I PROMISE.
YOU WILL REMEMBER A COSMOS FULL OF BEINGS WHO STROVE WITH EVERY MOMENT, EVERY BREATH, TO BRING LIGHT AND HOPE TO ITS DARKEST OF CORNERS.


REGARDLESS OF THEIR ORIGINS, REGARDLESS OF THE MARK THEY LEFT, LARGE OR SMALL, EACH ONE UNDERSTOOD THE SINGLE TRUTH THAT DEFINED THEIR UNIVERSE:
THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

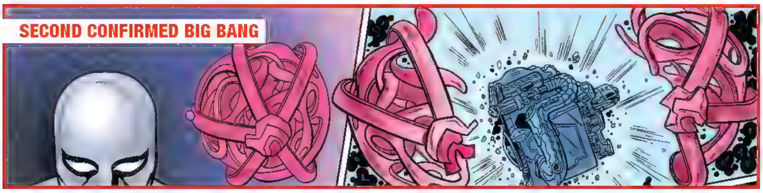

LET THEIR LIVES, THEIR ADVENTURES, THEIR TRIUMPHS INSPIRE YOU ALL THE REST OF YOUR DAYS.
TOGETHER, THEY BROUGHT ABOUT A THING OF WONDER.
A *UNIVERSE* OF *MARVELS.*

HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #1 ANNOTATIONS

Design: Stacie Zucker

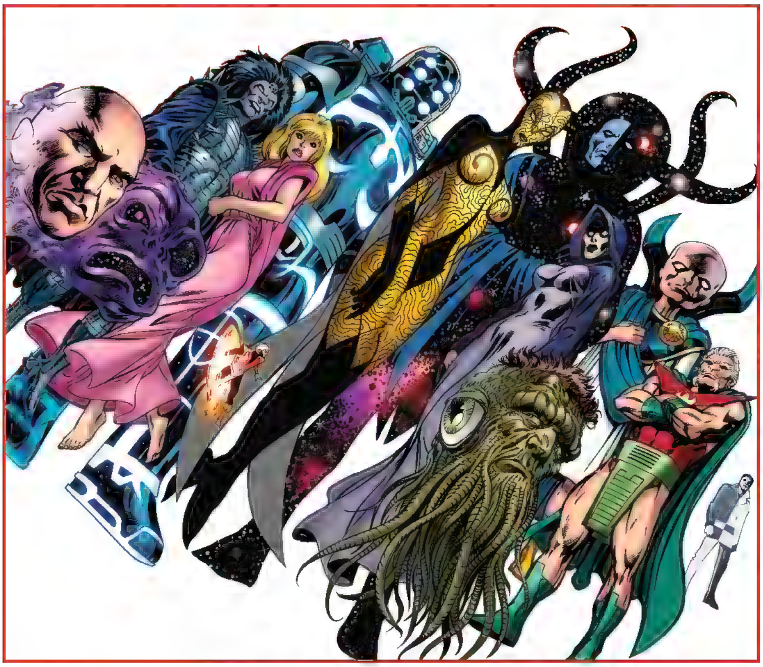


FIRST CONFIRMED BIG BANG

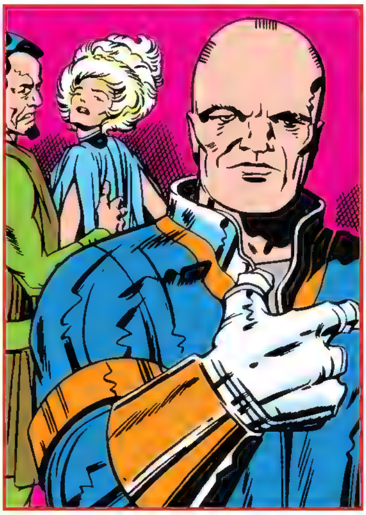


SECOND CONFIRMED BIG BANG

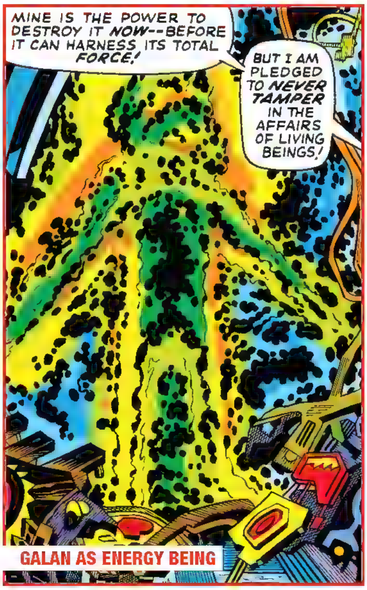
There have been two confirmed **Big Bangs**: The first occurred when the original iteration of reality was destroyed during a civil war among the enigmatic and powerful Celestials, resulting in the second reality and first Multiverse (a group of alternate universes). The second confirmed Big Bang occurred at the end of the sixth reality when a ship from that reality collided with the Alpha/Omega (an object containing all potential energy and matter); the resulting explosion created the seventh reality. ***Silver Surfer #10*** **(2017)** and ***Ultimates^2 #6*** **(2017)**.



Abstracts are nonphysical conceptual beings who employ living fractals from the Dimension of Manifestations to fashion a physical appearance to interact with physical beings. Among known Abstracts are the four pillars of reality: Eternity, Infinity, Death and Oblivion. Above them stands the Living Tribunal (the embodiment of arbitration and judgment) and the One-Above-All (which is believed to be responsible for all life). Much of our understanding of the Abstracts comes from the first few pages of ***Quasar #20*** **(1991)**.



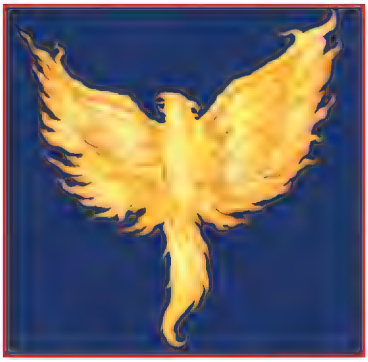
When all matter of the sixth iteration of reality began collapsing, scientist **Galan of Taa** boarded a spaceship and flew directly into the point of collapse to seek what existed outside of time and space. However, Galan was instead filled with cosmic energy when his ship survived the death of his reality. When his ship collided with the Alpha/Omega the second confirmed Big Bang occurred (birthing the seventh iteration of reality). After untold billions of years the ship crashed on an unidentified planet. There, the energy being formerly known as Galan transformed his ship into an incubator and launched it back into space, spending countless centuries evolving within. ***Silver Surfer #10*** **(2017)**, ***Super-Villain Classics #1*** **(1983)** and ***Thor #169*** **(1969)**.


MINE IS THE POWER TO DESTROY IT NOW--BEFORE IT CAN HARNESS ITS TOTAL FORCE!
BUT I AM PLEDGED TO NEVER TAMPER IN THE AFFAIRS OF LIVING BEINGS!

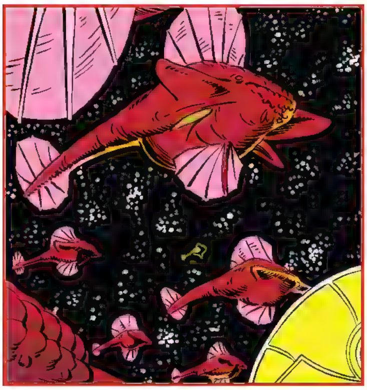
GALAN AS ENERGY BEING

SOLITARY BEING

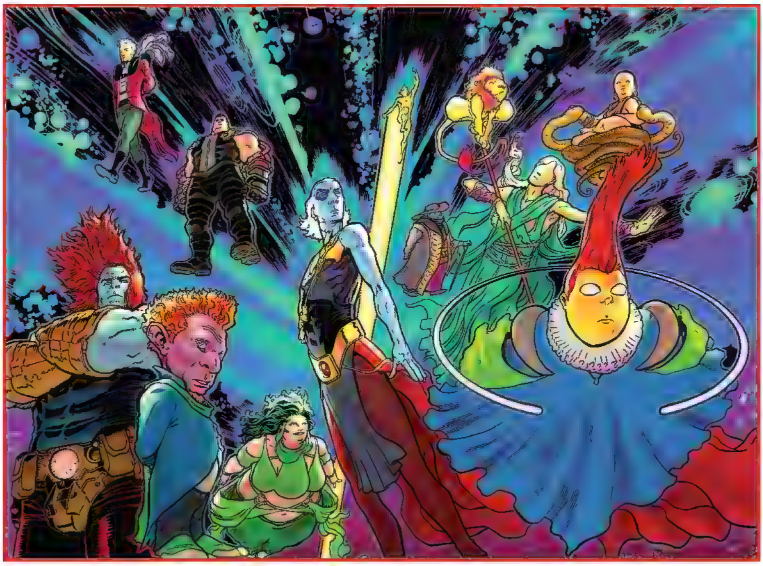
One recorded origin of the **Infinity Gems** tells of a solitary, omnipotent being ending its life to escape loneliness. From the ashes of this being rose all of reality; the being's power was reincarnated as gems that control the mind, power, time, the soul, space and reality. How this origin is reconciled with other creation accounts has yet to be revealed. ***Thanos Quest #1-2*** **(1990)**.



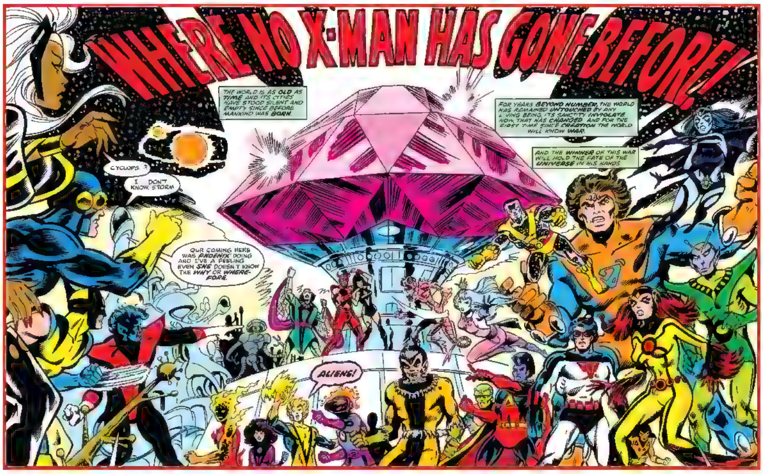
The greatly feared **Phoenix Force** is allegedly the nexus of all psionic energy that has, does or ever will exist; its primary purpose is to burn away anything deemed obsolete and regrow it as it sees fit. ***Classic X-Men #8*** **(1987)**, ***Classic X-Men #43*** **(1990)** and ***Fantastic Four #286*** **(1986)** first revealed much of what is known about the Phoenix Force.



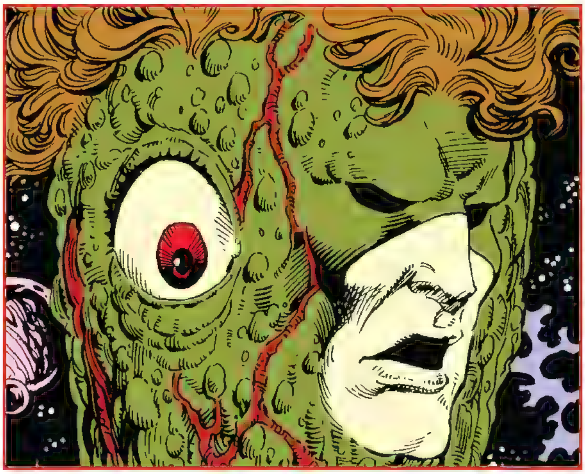
Among the earliest beings to evolve into existence were the **Acanti**, peaceful beings who have roamed space since creation began in their quest for knowledge. They can exist in the vacuum of space and travel at speeds faster than light. The Acanti first appeared in ***Uncanny X-Men #166*** **(1983)**.



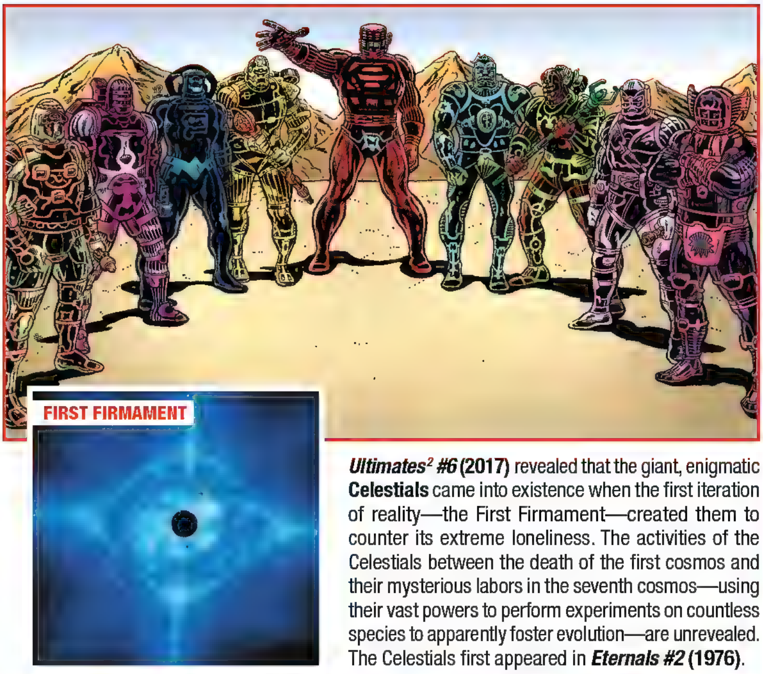
In ***Silver Surfer #4*** **(1987)** the being called the Grandmaster relayed the origin of the **Elders of the Universe**: Each is the vastly powerful surviving member of their own race (which are reported to be among the earliest races to exist), and the secret of their near-immortal existences is their abiding interest in a specific aspect of their lives (e.g., collecting, gambling, gardening). ***Avengers #28*** **(1966)** was the first appearance of an Elder; ***Avengers #174*** **(1978)** was the first mention of the group.


WHERE NO X-MAN HAS GONE BEFORE!
THE WORLD IS AS OLD AS TIME AND ITS CITIES HAVE STOOD SILENT AND EMPTY SINCE BEFORE MANKIND WAS BORN.
FOR YEARS BEYOND NUMBER, THE WORLD HAS REMAINED UNTOUCHED BY ANY LIVING BEING, ITS SANCTITY INVIOLATE. NOW, THAT HAS CHANGED AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE CREATION THE WORLD WILL KNOW WAR.
AND THE WINNER OF THIS WAR WILL HOLD THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE IN HIS HANDS
CYCLOPS...?
I... DON'T KNOW, STORM.
OUR COMING HERE WAS PHOENIX' DOING AND I'VE A FEELING EVEN SHE DOESN'T KNOW THE WHY OR WHEREFORE.
ALIENS!

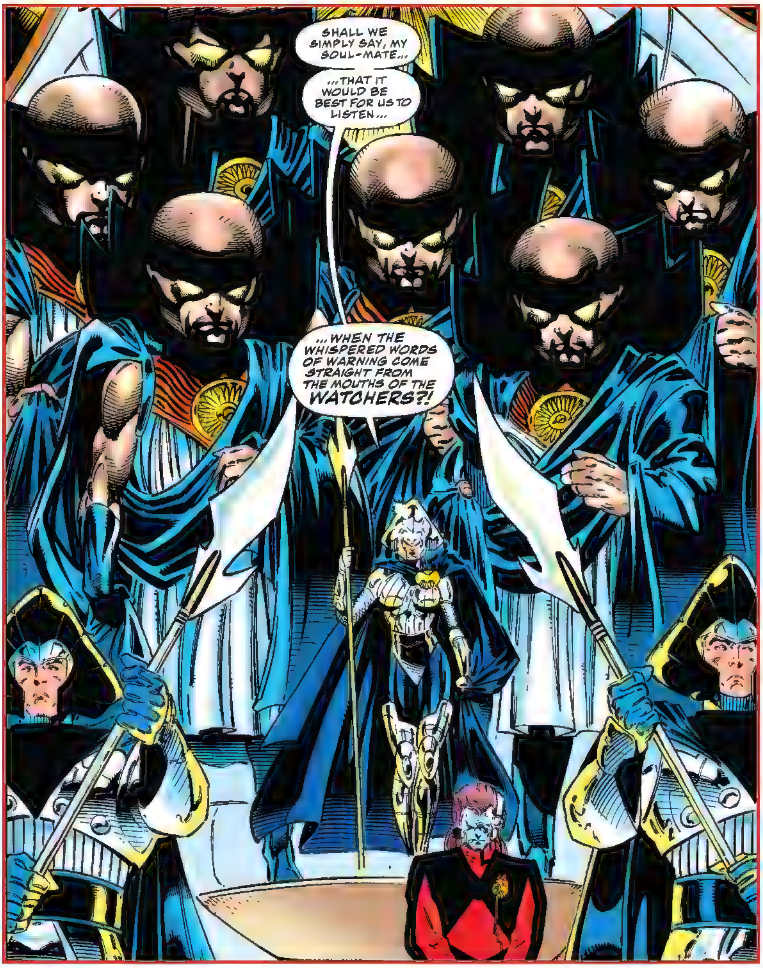
Believed to have been a wedding gift between two gods worshipped by the avian Shi'ar race, the **M'kraan Crystal** serves as a housing unit for the Crystal Heart of Reality, a nexus of all that is and ever was that allows access to other realities and worlds. The planet where the crystal resides (the World) is believed to be the first planet that brought forth life in the universe. The crystal and planet first appeared in ***X-Men #107-109*** **(1977)**.



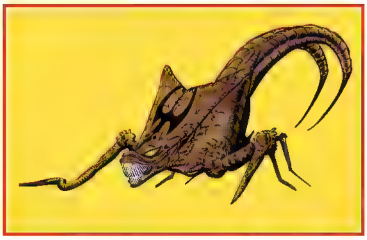
Eon is allegedly the offspring of Eternity (the embodiment of time) and was one of the first sentient entities formed following the second confirmed Big Bang. His mission of shepherding all life in existence and his role of appointing the Protectors of the Universe were detailed in ***Captain Marvel #29*** **(1973)** and ***Quasar #2*** **(1989)**.



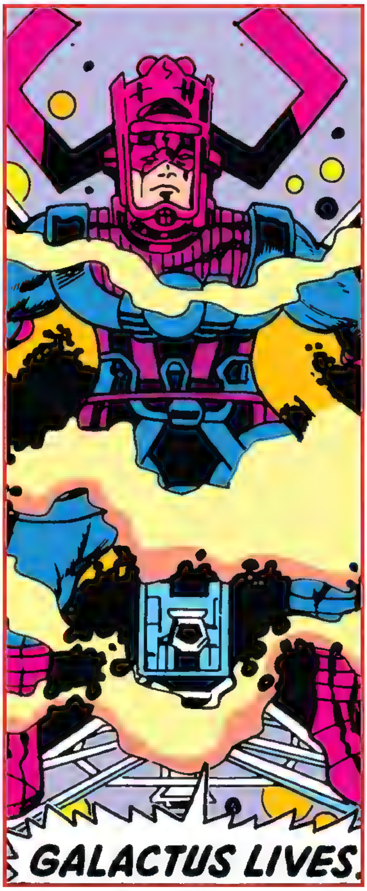
***Ultimates*^{2} *#6* (2017)** revealed that the giant, enigmatic **Celestials** came into existence when the first iteration of reality—the First Firmament—created them to counter its extreme loneliness. The activities of the Celestials between the death of the first cosmos and their mysterious labors in the seventh cosmos—using their vast powers to perform experiments on countless species to apparently foster evolution—are unrevealed. The Celestials first appeared in ***Eternals #2* (1976)**.


SHALL WE SIMPLY SAY, MY SOUL-MATE...
...THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR US TO LISTEN...
...WHEN THE WHISPERED WORDS OF WARNING COME STRAIGHT FROM THE MOUTHS OF THE WATCHERS?!

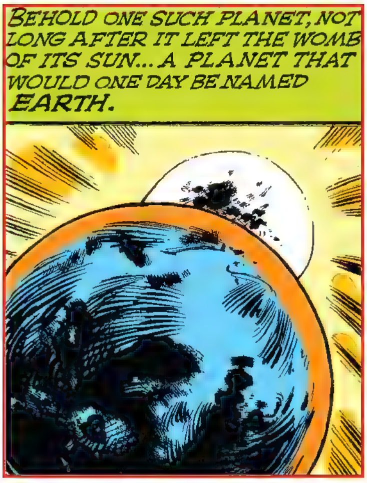
The virtually omniscient and immortal **Watchers** took an oath of passive observation after their altruistic gift of atomic energy eventually resulted in the Prosilican race developing nuclear weapons and destroying themselves. Watchers are stationed throughout all of existence, silently watching and recording multiple planes of reality; their pooled knowledge is then entered into the *Cyclopedia Universum* information database. The first Watcher (Uatu) appeared in ***Fantastic Four #13* (1963)**, the race's origin is recounted in ***Tales of Suspense #53* (1964)**, and the *Cyclopedia Universum* is first seen in ***Fantastic Four #544* (2007)**.

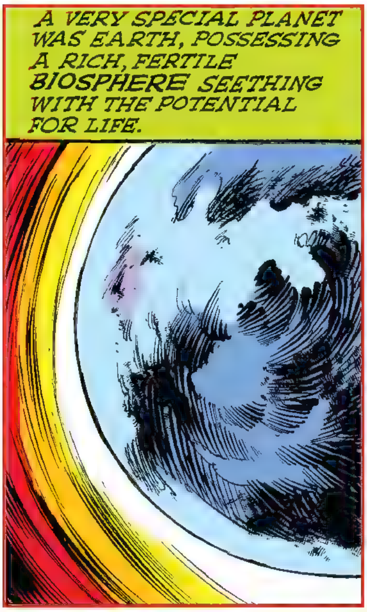


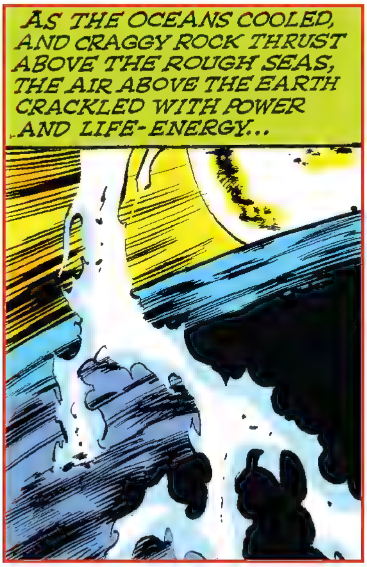
The vile, insectoid **Brood**'s hunger and procreation method drove them to conquer other races by parasitically implanting eggs into hosts that eventually transform into Brood when the embryo hatches. Some time before Earth formed, the Brood enslaved the Acanti race, using them as a mobile food source in their quest to infest the universe. The Brood first appeared in ***Uncanny X-Men #155* (1982)**, and their enslavement of the Acanti was recounted in ***Uncanny X-Men #166* (1983)**.


GALACTUS LIVES.

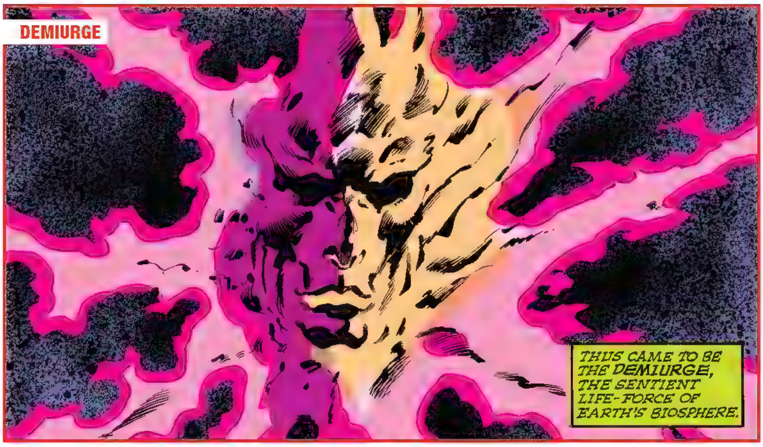
***Super-Villain Classics #1* (1983)** and ***Thor #169* (1969)** depict the energy being formerly known as Galan emerging from his incubator as **Galactus**. However, he was forced to exit his incubator prematurely due to attacks from aggressive warfaring civilizations. Galactus emerged as a vastly powerful being whose immense hunger could only be sated through the consumption of the life energy of entire planets. The first planet to be consumed by Galactus was Archeopia. During the millennia it took him to create a solar system-sized ship (*Taa II*), Galactus became one of the most feared beings in existence.

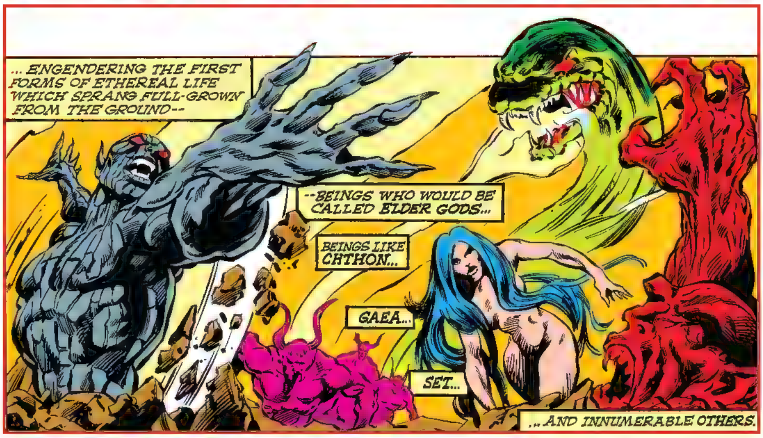

BEHOLD ONE SUCH PLANET, NOT LONG AFTER IT LEFT THE WOMB OF ITS SUN... A PLANET THAT WOULD ONE DAY BE NAMED EARTH.


A VERY SPECIAL PLANET WAS EARTH, POSSESSING A RICH, FERTILE BIOSPHERE SEETHING WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR LIFE.

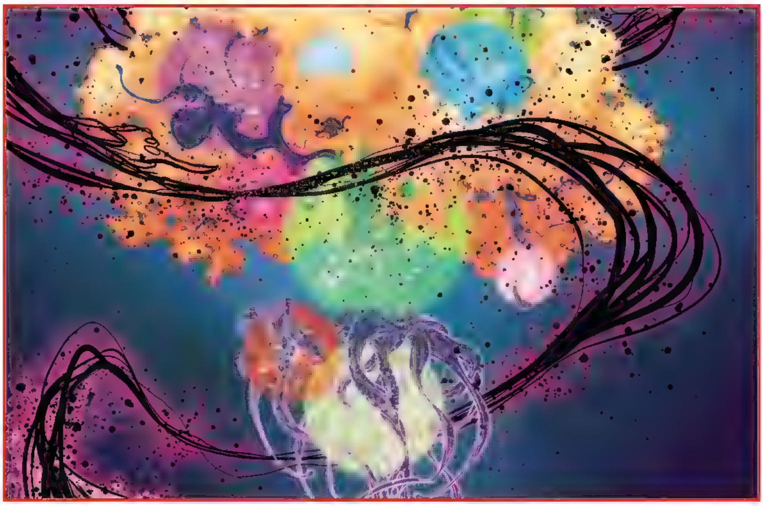

AS THE OCEANS COOLED, AND CRAGGY ROCK THRUST ABOVE THE ROUGH SEAS, THE AIR ABOVE THE EARTH CRACKLED WITH POWER AND LIFE-ENERGY...

Over the passage of time, matter continued to form stars and planets. One such planet possessed a rich, fertile biosphere filled with the potential for life. This planet would eventually come to be known as **Earth**. The formation of Earth was depicted in ***Silver Surfer Annual #2* (1989)** and ***Thor Annual #10* (1982)**.

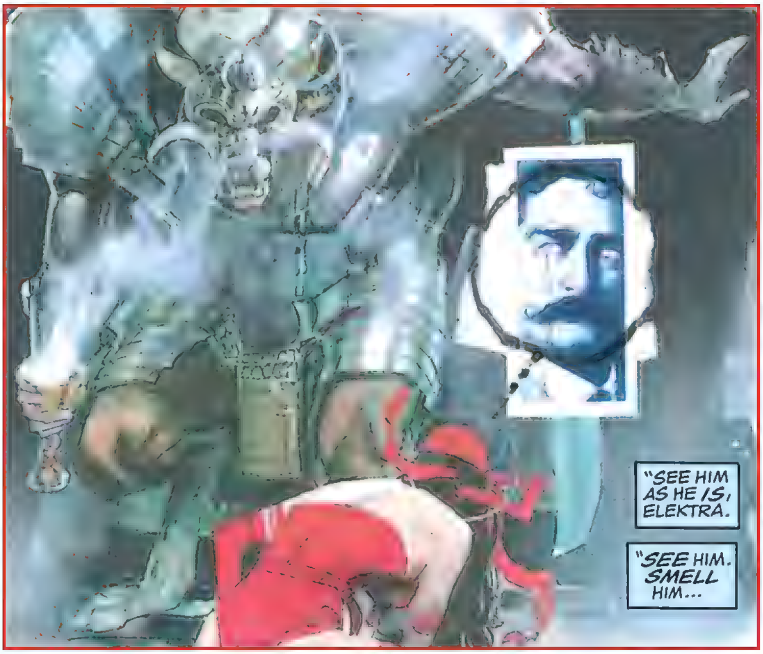

DEMIURGE
THUS CAME TO BE THE DEMIURGE, THE SENTIENT LIFE-FORCE OF EARTH'S BIOSPHERE.


...ENGENDERING THE FIRST FORMS OF ETHEREAL LIFE WHICH SPRANG FULL-GROWN FROM THE GROUND--
--BEINGS WHO WOULD BE CALLED ELDER GODS...
BEINGS LIKE CHTHON...
GAEA...
SET...
...AND INNUMERABLE OTHERS.

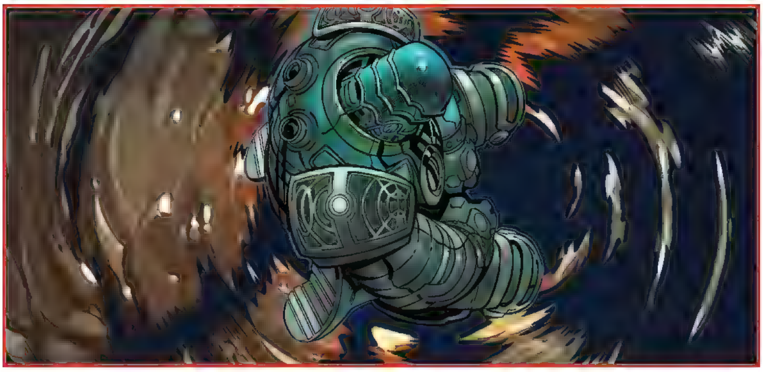
As the Earth cooled, energy within the atmosphere eventually became sentient. This sentient energy became known as the Demiurge and seeded the planet with potential life force. From the primeval mud came the first life on Earth, the **Elder Gods**. Among them were the benevolent Gaea, the kind and noble mystic Oshtur, the demonic Chthon and the serpentine Set. After Set committed Earth's first murder, the Elder Gods degenerated into demons. Eventually, Atum—the son of Gaea and the Demiurge—slew the Elder Gods, except Gaea (who eventually became Mother Earth), Oshtur (who had departed to explore other realms) and the escaping Chthon and Set. Before he left, Chthon wrote his vast knowledge of dark magic on parchments that would eventually imperil Earth. The Elder Gods' history is summarized in the last story in ***Silver Surfer Annual #2* (1989)**.



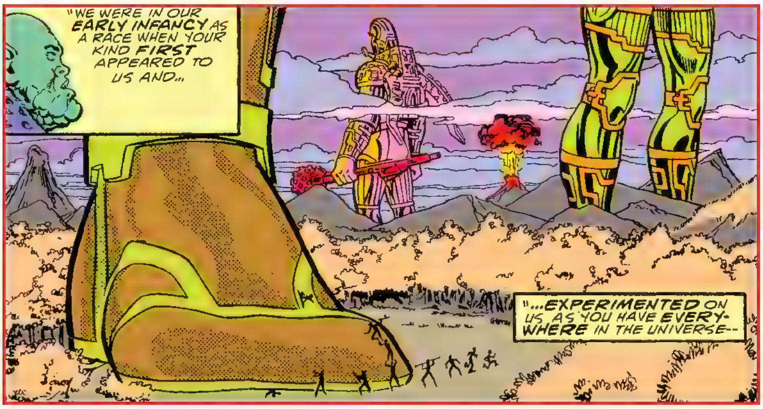
The **Ten Realms** are the major inhabited realms of Asgardian cosmology. All but Heven, which was cut off from the others after a war with Asgard, are connected by Yggdrasil, an energy system represented by a tree and roots in Asgardian mythology. This representation of the Axis Mundi (the "Center of the World," where all things meet) is seen differently by all. According to Asgardian mythology, the realms were created billions of years ago through the actions of various Asgardians and beings from the realms. Earth (Midgard) was made by Odin Borson and his brothers from the corpse of a Frost Giant. Whether this alternate tale of Earth's creation is accurate remains unrevealed. A summary of the Ten Realms can be found in ***Thor #7* (2015)**.


"SEE HIM AS HE IS, ELEKTRA.
"SEE HIM. SMELL HIM...

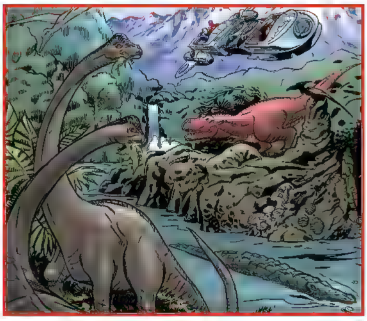
Another demon to exist on early Earth is the **Beast**, a nihilistic, murderous creature who longed to return Earth to its peaceful, quiet, dark state by annihilating all living beings, which it sees as a corruption of purity. Much of the Beast's origin and early activities remain unrevealed, but its motivation was revealed by the Beast itself in ***Elektra: Assassin #7* (1987)**.



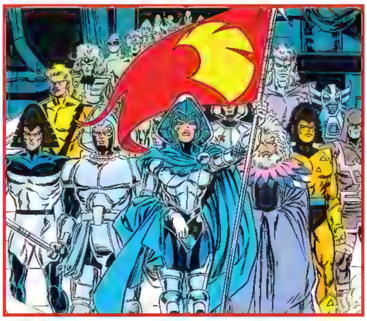
Prior to the Demiurge's seeding of the planet, the Celestial **Progenitor** crashed on Earth due to an infection by cosmic locusts called the Horde. After its death four billion years ago, the Celestial's blood and rotting flesh seeped into the planet, making Earth a unique breeding ground for potential superhuman events and beings. The sad story of this Celestial (also called Celestial Zero) can be found in ***Avengers #5* (2018)**.


"WE WERE IN OUR EARLY INFANCY AS A RACE WHEN YOUR KIND FIRST APPEARED TO US AND...
"...EXPERIMENTED ON US, AS YOU HAVE EVERYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE--

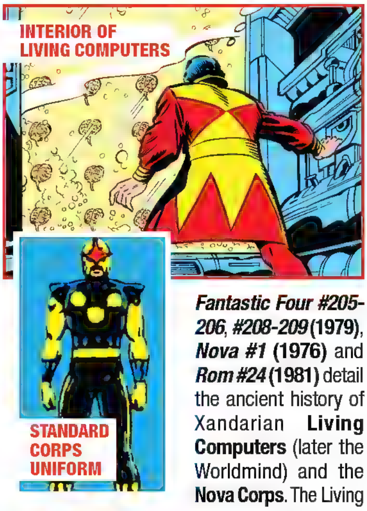
Furthering their enigmatic agenda, the Celestials experimented upon a reptilian race in the Andromeda/M31 Galaxy, leaving one branch of that race laced with unstable molecules that enabled shape-shifting. Over several millennia, this Skrull branch became the dominant branch of the race and one of the greatest interstellar empires through trade. The **Celestials' experimentations on the Skrulls** were revealed in ***Silver Surfer #5* (1987)**.



Billions of years ago, the other-dimensional Beyonders contracted the extraterrestrial Nuwali to create a game preserve on what would become Earth's Antarctica landmass, gathering into it the flora and fauna of the time. After millions of years, both the Beyonders and the Nuwali abandoned the zoo, but the technology established to maintain the environment continues working to this day. The origins of this **Savage Land** can be found in ***Ka-Zar the Savage #31*** and ***#34* (1984)**.

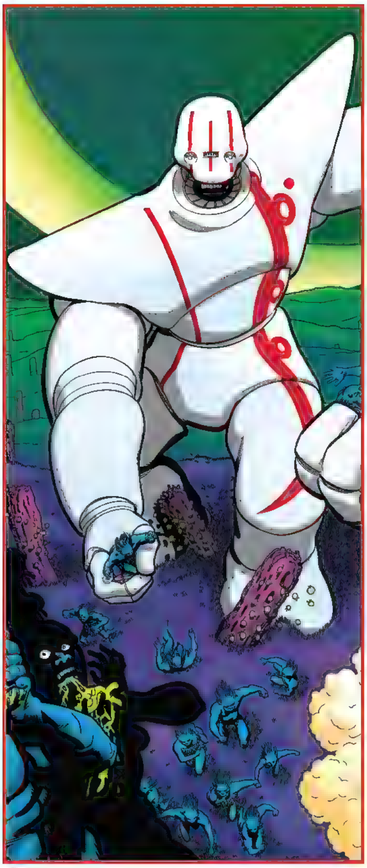


What started as a single avian race billions of years ago would be shaped by the secret and enigmatic Fraternity of Raptors into the most powerful and largest empire in the known universe. Over the many centuries of the empire's rise, the race evolved away from their wings, though the majority of the Shi'ar race still have feathers instead of hair. The age of the **Shi'ar Empire** is confirmed in ***Avengers #378* (1994)**, ***Infinity Countdown: Darkhawk #3* (2018)** and ***Uncanny X-Men #478* (2006)**.

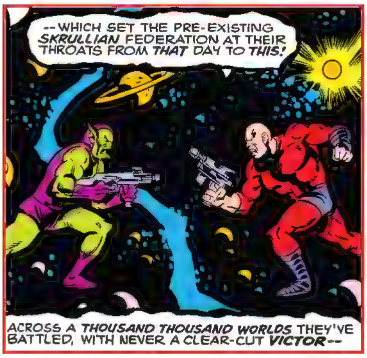

INTERIOR OF LIVING COMPUTERS

STANDARD CORPS UNIFORM

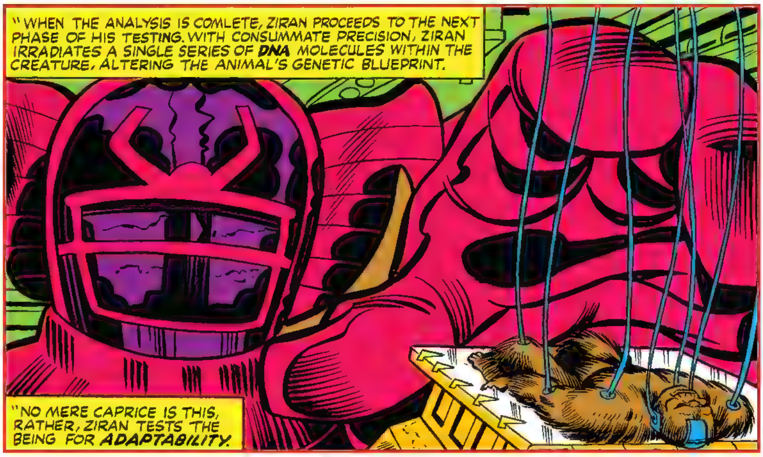
***Fantastic Four #205-206*, *#208-209* (1979)**, ***Nova #1* (1976)** and ***Rom #24* (1981)** detail the ancient history of Xandarian **Living Computers** (later the Worldmind) and the **Nova Corps**. The Living Computers—the cumulative knowledge, art, culture and minds of all deceased Xandarians—empowered the planet's militia with the Nova Force, granting them numerous super-powers. Gradually, the Nova Corps would come to serve as law enforcement across the universe.

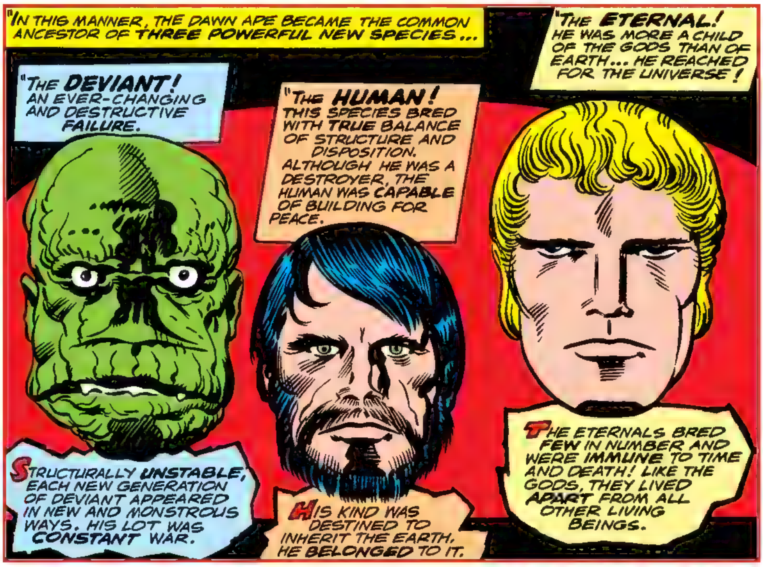


Millions of years ago, the **Progenitors** (no relation to Celestial Zero) **experimented on the primitive Kree race**, advancing their evolution through exposure to a substance called Primagen. Over the following centuries, blue- and pale-skinned Kree would develop into another powerful empire in the universe. The Progenitors' experiments were revealed in ***Royals #9*** **(2017)**.

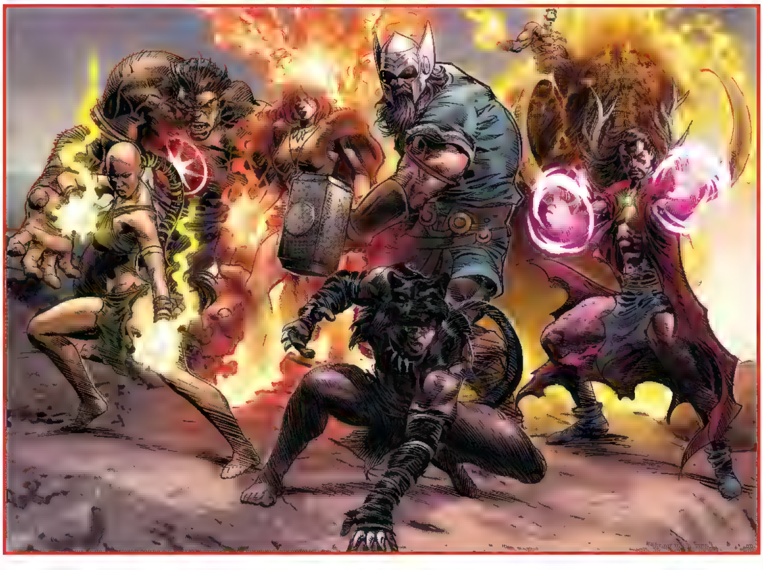

--WHICH SET THE PRE-EXISTING SKRULLIAN FEDERATION AT THEIR THROATS FROM THAT DAY TO THIS!
ACROSS A THOUSAND THOUSAND WORLDS THEY'VE BATTLED, WITH NEVER A CLEAR-CUT VICTOR--

When the Skrulls (shown above left) came to Hala to offer their advanced technology in exchange for resources, they proposed a contest between the planet's two races. The primitive Kree destroyed their rivals, the plantlike Cotati, in order to win the contest. When the Skrulls objected to this barbarism, the Kree slew the Skrull party and seized their ship. Later, after mastering Skrull tech, the Kree (shown above right) attacked the Skrull world, prompting the peaceful Skrulls to adopt aggression and war. The resulting conflict—the **Kree-Skrull War**—was waged for millennia. The start of the war was first explained in ***Avengers #133-134*** **(1975)**.


"WHEN THE ANALYSIS IS COMLETE, ZIRAN PROCEEDS TO THE NEXT PHASE OF HIS TESTING. WITH CONSUMMATE PRECISION, ZIRAN IRRADIATES A SINGLE SERIES OF DNA MOLECULES WITHIN THE CREATURE, ALTERING THE ANIMAL'S GENETIC BLUEPRINT.
"NO MERE CAPRICE IS THIS, RATHER, ZIRAN TESTS THE BEING FOR ADAPTABILITY.

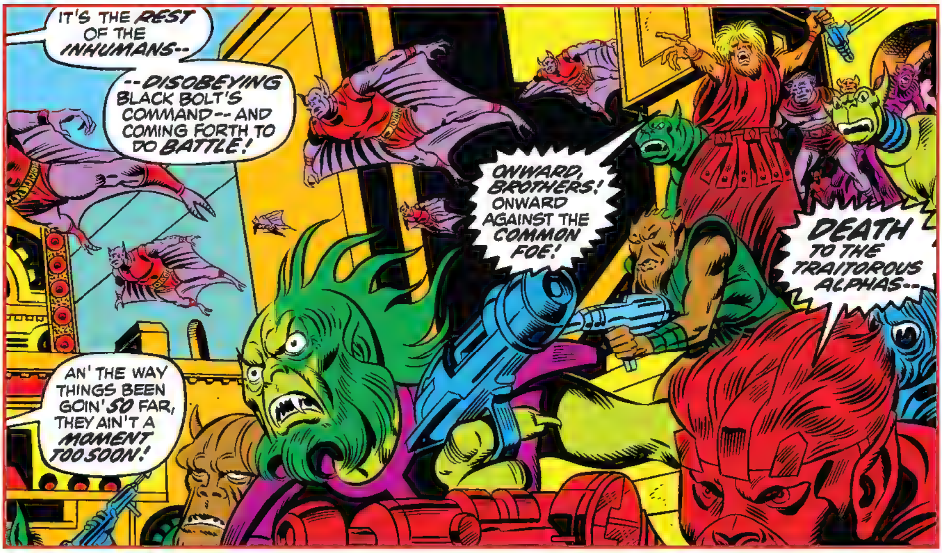

"IN THIS MANNER, THE DAWN APE BECAME THE COMMON ANCESTOR OF THREE POWERFUL NEW SPECIES...
"THE DEVIANT! AN EVER-CHANGING AND DESTRUCTIVE FAILURE.
"THE HUMAN! THIS SPECIES BRED WITH TRUE BALANCE OF STRUCTURE AND DISPOSITION. ALTHOUGH HE WAS A DESTROYER, THE HUMAN WAS CAPABLE OF BUILDING FOR PEACE.
"THE ETERNAL! HE WAS MORE A CHILD OF THE GODS THAN OF EARTH... HE REACHED FOR THE UNIVERSE!
STRUCTURALLY UNSTABLE, EACH NEW GENERATION OF DEVIANT APPEARED IN NEW AND MONSTROUS WAYS. HIS LOT WAS CONSTANT WAR.
HIS KIND WAS DESTINED TO INHERIT THE EARTH. HE BELONGED TO IT.
THE ETERNALS BRED FEW IN NUMBER AND WERE IMMUNE TO TIME AND DEATH! LIKE THE GODS, THEY LIVED APART FROM ALL OTHER LIVING BEINGS.

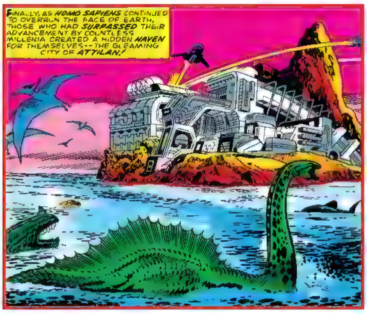
When the Celestials visited Earth en masse (the First Host), they experimented on Earth's anthropoids, creating the cosmically powered **Eternals** and their hated rivals, the genetically unstable **Deviants**. They also instilled a latent superhuman gene in a third group that would eventually grow into Earth's dominant species: humanity. ***Eternals #1*** **(1977)**, ***Eternals #1*** **(2006)** and ***What If? #23*** **(1980)**.



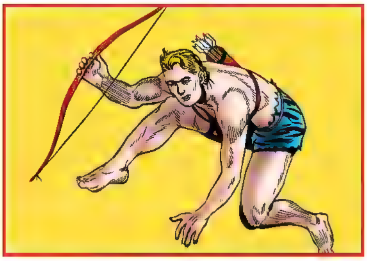
1,200,000 years ago, the Celestial named **Zgreb the Aspirant** came to Earth while seeking its fellow Celestial, the Progenitor. After becoming infected by the Horde, Zgreb became deranged, forcing Odin Borson to gather super-beings of that time—collectively calling themselves the **Avengers**—to prevent him from harming Earth. ***Avengers #1-6*** **(2018-2019)** and ***Marvel Legacy #1*** **(2017)**.

The Kree's plan to create a super-army to aid in their conquests included experimenting on sentient species around the universe, including the Badoon, Centaurians and Kymellians. Thousands of years later, the Kree performed their experiments on Earth's early man, creating another branch of super-beings there. All these intergalactic races would come to be known as the **Inhumans**. On Earth, the Inhumans became an advanced culture. ***Fantastic Four* #577** **(2010)** and ***What If?* #28** **(1980)**.

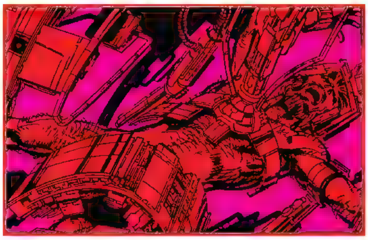

IT'S THE REST OF THE INHUMANS--
--DISOBEYING BLACK BOLT'S COMMAND-- AND COMING FORTH TO DO BATTLE!
ONWARD, BROTHERS! ONWARD AGAINST THE COMMON FOE!
DEATH TO THE TRAITOROUS ALPHAS--
AN' THE WAY THINGS BEEN GOIN' SO FAR, THEY AIN'T A MOMENT TOO SOON!


FINALLY, AS HOMO SAPIENS CONTINUED TO OVERRUN THE FACE OF EARTH, THOSE WHO HAD SURPASSED THEIR ADVANCEMENT BY COUNTLESS MILLENIA CREATED A HIDDEN HAVEN FOR THEMSELVES-- THE GLEAMING CITY OF ATTILAN!

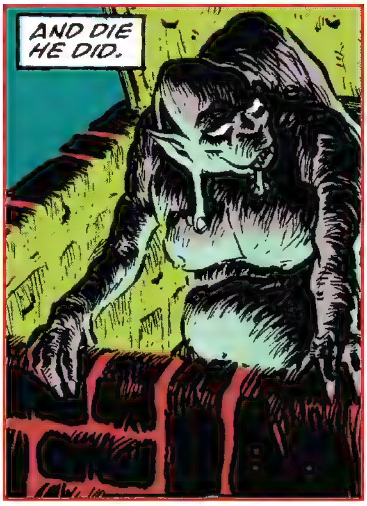
After becoming a distinct society, Earth's Inhumans founded the advanced city of **Attilan** in the North Atlantic Ocean. Beneath it, they discovered rare Terrigen Crystals, which could unlock the Kree-given superhuman potential in their DNA and cause unpredictable transformations. Around 2000 B.C., the dull-witted Alpha Primitive clones were genetically created to serve as Attilan's manual labor force. Hundreds of years later, Inhuman King Black Bolt (Blackagar Boltagon) moved Attilan to a remote section of the Himalayas to hide his people from the rapidly developing outside world. ***Fantastic Four* #47** **(1966)**, ***Thor* #146-152** **(1967)** and ***What If?* #29-30** **(1981)**; Attilan was first referenced in ***Captain America Comics* #1** **(1941)**.



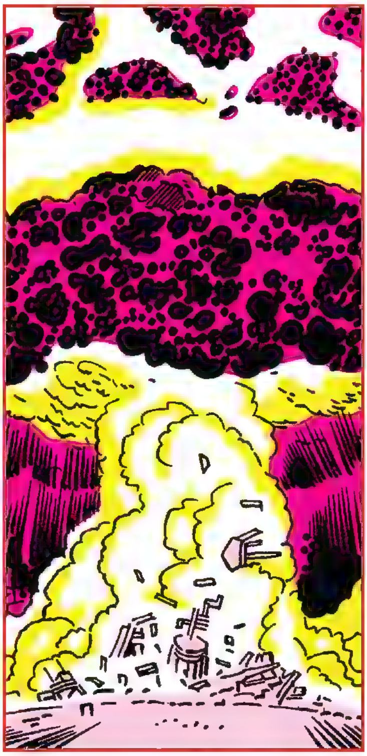
An example of Earth's early progenitors of the Cro-Magnons, **Tuk the Caveboy** and his parents were exiled for unrevealed reasons from the technologically advanced Attilan. After his parents were slain by wild beasts, Tuk was raised by one of the "Shaggy Ones" and went on to travel and have adventures in prehistoric Earth's developing realms. ***Captain America Comics* #1-5** **(1941)**; Tuk's Inhuman ancestry is new information provided in this series.



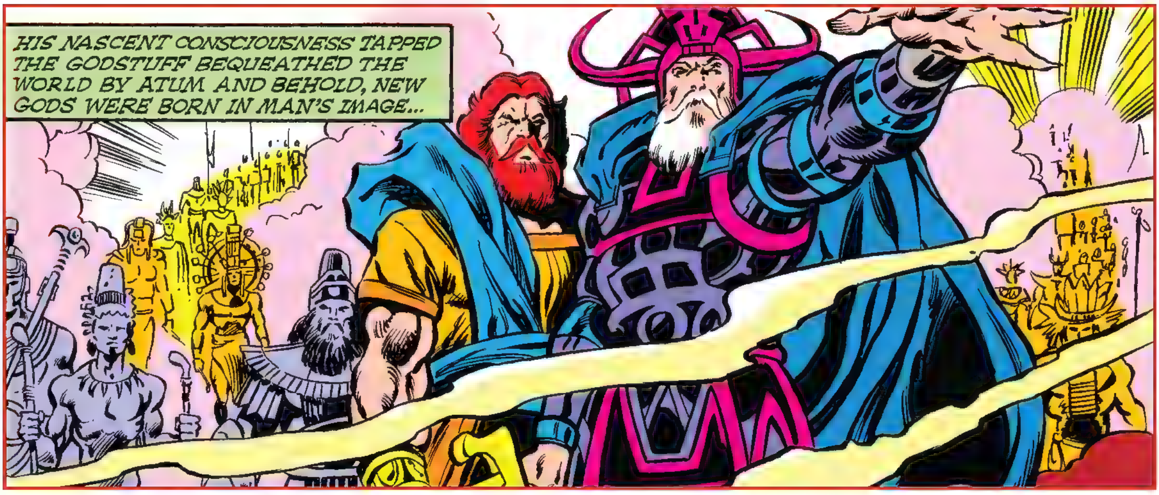
When an alien Plodex ship crashed on Earth, it sent a mental summons compelling native life to travel to the ship. A primitive man, Eshu, survived the travels only to be captured by the Plodex ship and vivisected to obtain genetic information to further the race's intended conquering of Earth. However, over the next 30,000 years, Eshu's brain gradually gained control of the ship and built a perfect body for him, becoming the would-be **Master of the World**. ***Alpha Flight* #2-4** **(1983)**.


AND DIE HE DID.

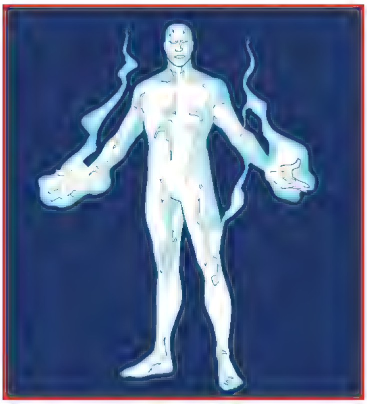
During a war against Valusia's King Kull, sorcerers of the continent Atlantis used Chthon's evil parchments to seek magical weapons. One of their efforts transformed a gravely wounded Atlantean *Gigantopithacus* named Varnae into **Earth's first vampire**, unleashing a plague of undead upon Earth that would last into modern times. ***Doctor Strange: Sorcerer Supreme* #11** **(1989)**.



When the Celestials returned to Earth (the Second Host) they were attacked by the Deviants, who had become the dominant species. In 18,000 B.C., the Celestials fired back in retaliation, causing entire continents to sink beneath the waves and killing millions in an event that would be called the **Great Cataclysm**. During the devastation, it is believed Atlantean sorcerers saved some of the population by magically turning them into water-breathers, creating the underwater-dwelling direct ancestors of the ***Homo mermanus*** **(Atlantean)** race; however, some attribute the creation of this race to the Olympian god of the sea, Neptune. The Great Cataclysm was depicted in ***Eternals* #2** **(1976)** and ***Sub-Mariner* #62-64** **(1973)**, and the wizards' transformation of the water-breathers was revealed in ***Incredible Hercules* #123** **(2008)**.

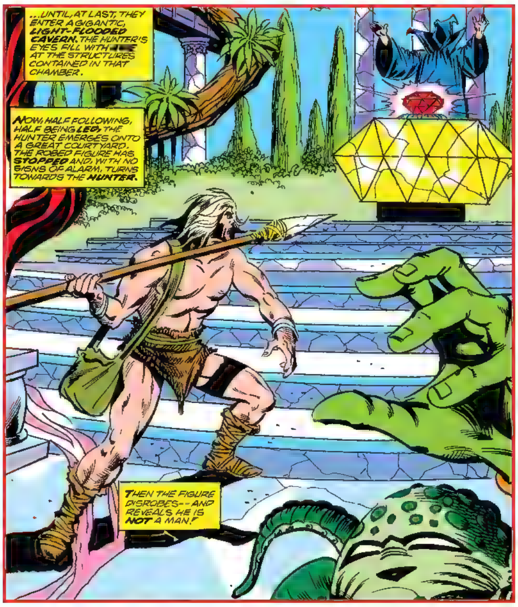

HIS NASCENT CONSCIOUSNESS TAPPED THE GODSTUFF BEQUEATHED THE WORLD BY ATUM AND BEHOLD, NEW GODS WERE BORN IN MAN'S IMAGE...

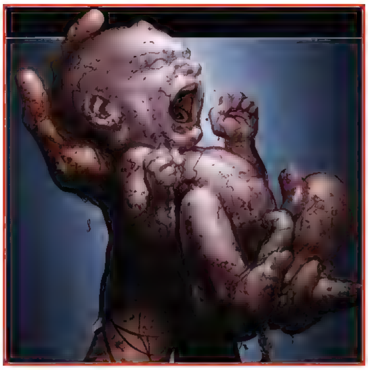
Over the eons after Atum destroyed the Elder Gods, mankind's nascent consciousness tapped into the "godstuff" laced through creation, gradually causing new gods to be born in man's image. Among these beings were the ***Asgardian and Olympian pantheons***. ***Thor Annual #10*** **(1982)**.



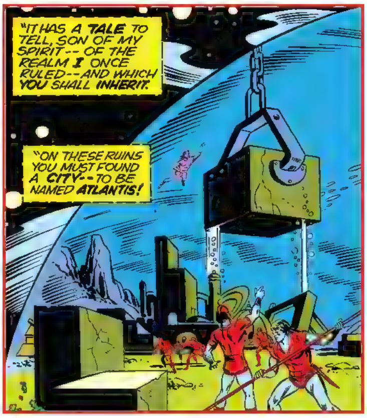
The ***Marvel Tarot #1*** **(2007)** details the first confirmed time **the role of Earth's Sorcerer Supreme was passed to another**. Agamotto relinquished the title to Shamhat Saraswati, who was from a race of winged people (Bird Men) created by the noble mystic Oshtur to counter the evil Serpent Men and Wolf Men created by the demonic Chthon? Saraswati has not been depicted in the Marvel Universe; shown here is Agamotto's "true" form.

The Bloodgem was created prior to the start of the seventh iteration of reality by an ancient race of gods who sought to conquer other dimensions. Surviving the Big Bang, the gem found its way to Earth by 8250 B.C. Some time later, a hunter attacked the gem after its energies killed his tribe. When the gem shattered during his attack, a fragment embedded itself in the hunter's chest, granting him immortality. As **Ulysses Bloodstone**, the hunter began a centuries-long war against monsters. His pursuit of the monster Giganto gave rise to Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*. Ulysses Bloodstone's origin was told in ***Marvel Presents #2*** **(1975)**.

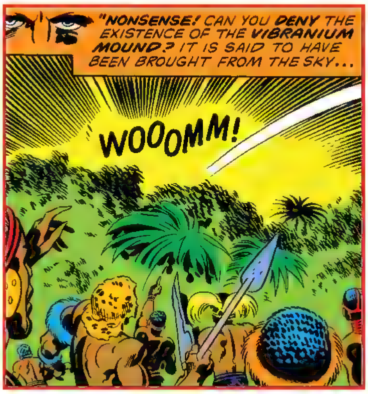

...UNTIL, AT LAST, THEY ENTER A GIGANTIC, LIGHT-FLOODED CAVERN. THE HUNTER'S EYES FILL WITH AWE AT THE STRUCTURES CONTAINED IN THAT CHAMBER.
NOW, HALF FOLLOWING, HALF BEING LED, THE HUNTER EMERGES ONTO A GREAT COURTYARD. THE ROBED FIGURE HAS STOPPED AND, WITH NO SIGNS OF ALARM, TURNS TOWARDS THE HUNTER.
THEN THE FIGURE DISROBES--AND REVEALS HE IS NOT A MAN!



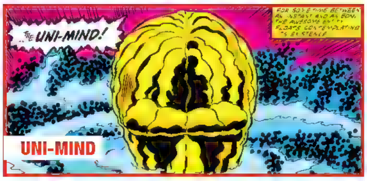
Much later, a central European tribe believed a newborn child was destined for godhood. Over the child's early years, the tribe members sacrificed themselves to her hunger for life force. The apparently immortal, vampire-like mutant (*Homo superior*) who would eventually become known as **Selene** began a quest for power that would continue into the modern day. Her birth was depicted in ***X-Necrosha #1*** **(2009)**.


"IT HAS A TALE TO TELL, SON OF MY SPIRIT--OF THE REALM I ONCE RULED--AND WHICH YOU SHALL INHERIT.
"ON THESE RUINS YOU MUST FOUND A CITY--TO BE NAMED ATLANTIS!

Around 6000 B.C., two factions of *Homo mermanus* colonized the ruins of the city of **Atlantis**, which had been underwater for thousands of years following the Great Cataclysm. Atlantis' new residents called themselves Atlanteans, dedicated the city to their god, Neptune, and began welcoming immigrants. ***Saga of the Sub-Mariner #1*** **(1988)** and ***Sub-Mariner #64-66*** **(1973)**.

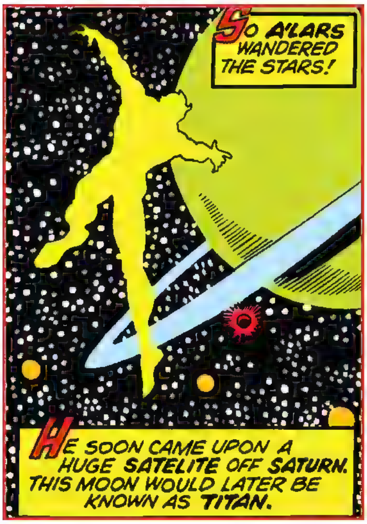

"NONSENSE! CAN YOU DENY THE EXISTENCE OF THE VIBRANIUM MOUND? IT IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FROM THE SKY...
WOOOMM!

When a meteor crashed into Wakanda, a small African nation, the Wakandans mined the ore and learned to use it in their spearheads. This vibration-absorbing ore—named **Vibranium**—was significant in helping Wakanda become one of the most scientifically and technologically advanced countries on Earth. The meteor's impact was depicted in ***Black Panther #7*** **(1978)**.

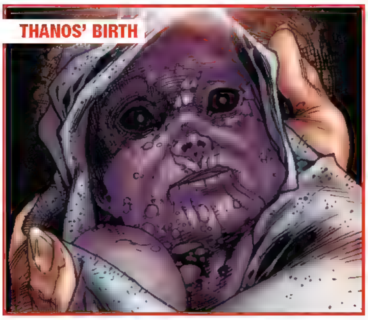

...THE UNI-MIND!
FOR SOME TIME BETWEEN AN INSTANT AND AN EON, THE AWESOME ENTITY FLOATS CONTEMPLATING ITS EXISTENCE

UNI-MIND

Thanks to experiments performed by the Eternal named Kronos (which caused him to ascend to a higher plane of existence), the Eternals learned how to merge into a single, powerful psychic entity called the **Uni-Mind**. Doing so revealed that the majority of the people chose Kronos' son **Zuras as the Prime Eternal** after Kronos' ascendance. ***What If? #25*** **(1981)**.

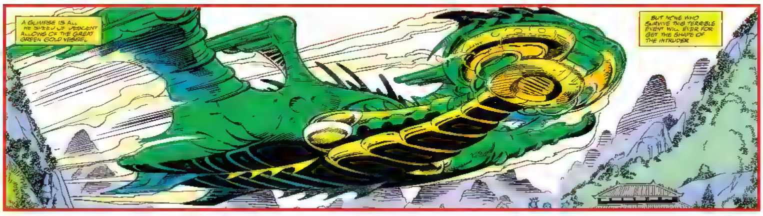

SO A'LARS WANDERED THE STARS!
HE SOON CAME UPON A HUGE SATELLITE OFF SATURN. THIS MOON WOULD LATER BE KNOWN AS TITAN.

To avoid division among the Eternals, Zuras' brother A'Lars chose not to challenge Zuras' rule and exiled himself from Earth. Eventually, **A'Lars came across Titan**, a moon of Saturn, and found a destroyed Eternals settlement created by his uncle, Uranos, who had been exiled from Earth some time before. There, A'Lars found only Sui-San had survived clashes between Uranos' followers; the two became consorts. ***Captain Marvel #29*** **(1973)**.

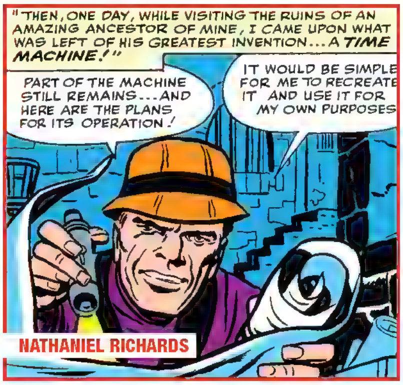


THANOS' BIRTH

After developing Titan into a technological wonderland and using genetic engineering and cloning to repopulate the moon, A'Lars (now called Mentor) and Sui-San had two sons: the charismatic **Eros** and his older brother, **Thanos**, who was born with a monstrous appearance thanks to a disorder called the Deviant Syndrome. As they grew, Thanos' nihilistic nature led him to commit the first murder in this society and to secretly fall in love with and worship Death, the embodiment of mortality. While Eros' birth has not been depicted, Thanos' arrival can be found in ***Thanos Rising #1-5*** **(2013)**.

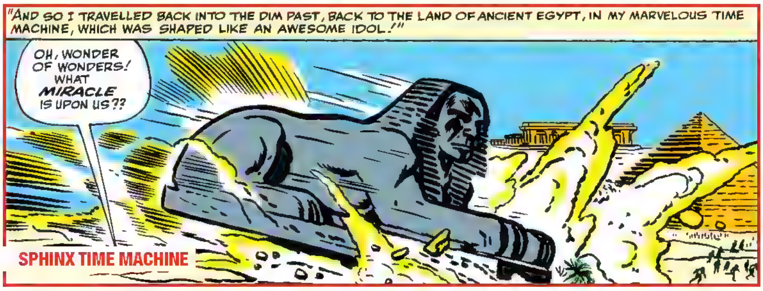

A GLIMPSE IS ALL THE SPEED OF DESCENT ALLOWS OF THE GREAT GREEN GOLD VESSEL.
BUT NONE WHO SURVIVE THIS TERRIBLE EVENT WILL EVER FORGET THE SHAPE OF THE INTRUDER

Leaving their peaceful planet of Kakaranathara to seek worlds to conquer, the alien dragon who would become known as **Fin Fang Foom** and his fellow Dragon Lords used ten incredibly powerful rings to control their ship. However, the ship crash-landed on Earth in what would become China. After being attacked by humans, Fin Fang Foom entered the Valley of the Dragons, establishing it as his home base. From there, Fin Fang Foom had various conflicts with Earth's humans and superhumans over the subsequent centuries. Fin Fang Foom's origin was told in ***Iron Man #272*** **(1991)**.


"THEN, ONE DAY, WHILE VISITING THE RUINS OF AN AMAZING ANCESTOR OF MINE, I CAME UPON WHAT WAS LEFT OF HIS GREATEST INVENTION...A TIME MACHINE!"
PART OF THE MACHINE STILL REMAINS...AND HERE ARE THE PLANS FOR ITS OPERATION!
IT WOULD BE SIMPLE FOR ME TO RECREATE IT AND USE IT FOR MY OWN PURPOSES

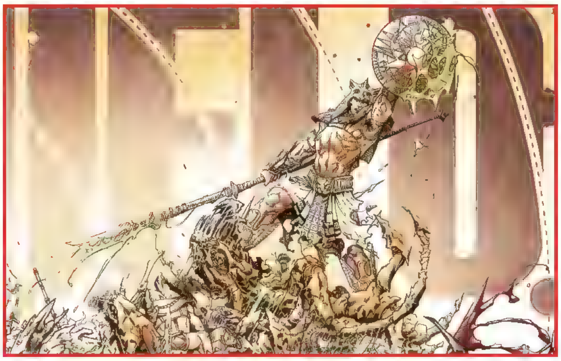
NATHANIEL RICHARDS

Frustrated with societal complacency in a utopian 31st century, Nathaniel Richards created time-travel machinery housed within a Sphinx facade and traveled to ancient Egypt of 2950 B.C. planning to make it his base as he looted weaponry from various time periods. There, Richards used futuristic weaponry to reign for a decade as the **Pharaoh Rama-Tut**. Traveling forward in time, Nathaniel became the Scarlet Centurion and then Kang. Continued time travel led to numerous divergent Nathaniels, including Iron Lad. The final incarnation of Nathaniel became Immortus, ruler of Limbo. The beginnings of the extensive Nathaniel Richards saga can be found in ***Fantastic Four #19*** **(1963)**.

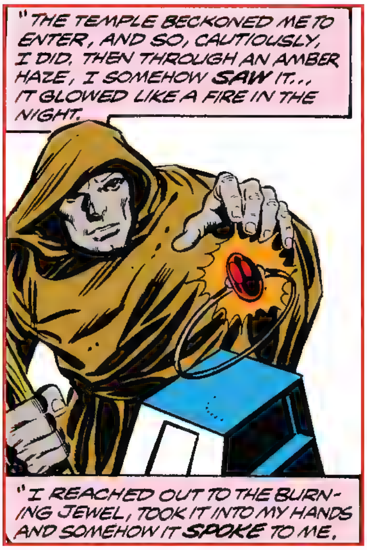

"AND SO I TRAVELLED BACK INTO THE DIM PAST, BACK TO THE LAND OF ANCIENT EGYPT, IN MY MARVELOUS TIME MACHINE, WHICH WAS SHAPED LIKE AN AWESOME IDOL!"
OH, WONDER OF WONDERS! WHAT MIRACLE IS UPON US??

SPHINX TIME MACHINE

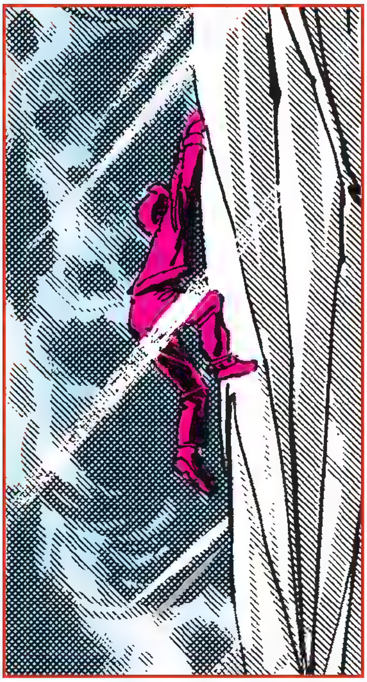
Born in ancient Egypt, a child with gray skin and mutated features was left to die in the desert. The infant was found by nomads whose leader sensed potential power in the child and decided to raise it as his own. The child was named En Sabah Nur and raised to believe "the strong will survive." Over time, En Sabah Nur's mutant power to adapt his molecular structure and his strong will helped him become the dreaded conqueror named **Apocalypse**; later incorporation of Celestial technology enabled him to extend his life for thousands of years. The beginning of Apocalypse's life was told in ***Rise of Apocalypse #1-4*** **(1996-1997)**.



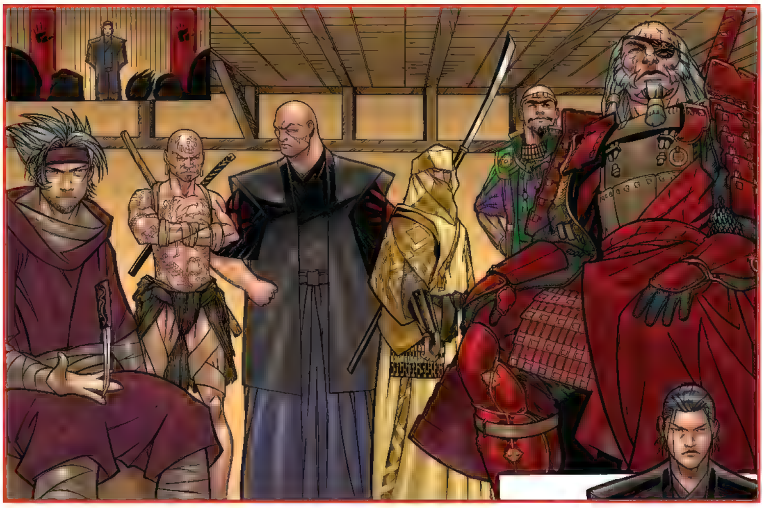
When the vile Brood parasites staged an invasion of Earth, a warrior named Imhotep led warriors (including En Sabah Nur) in war against them. After personally killing the Brood queen in 2620 B.C., Imhotep helped found the **Brotherhood of the Shield**, an organization that served to safeguard humanity from anything that threatened it. ***S.H.I.E.L.D. #1*** **(2010)**.


"THE TEMPLE BECKONED ME TO ENTER, AND SO, CAUTIOUSLY, I DID. THEN THROUGH AN AMBER HAZE, I SOMEHOW SAW IT... IT GLOWED LIKE A FIRE IN THE NIGHT.
"I REACHED OUT TO THE BURNING JEWEL, TOOK IT INTO MY HANDS AND SOMEHOW IT SPOKE TO ME.

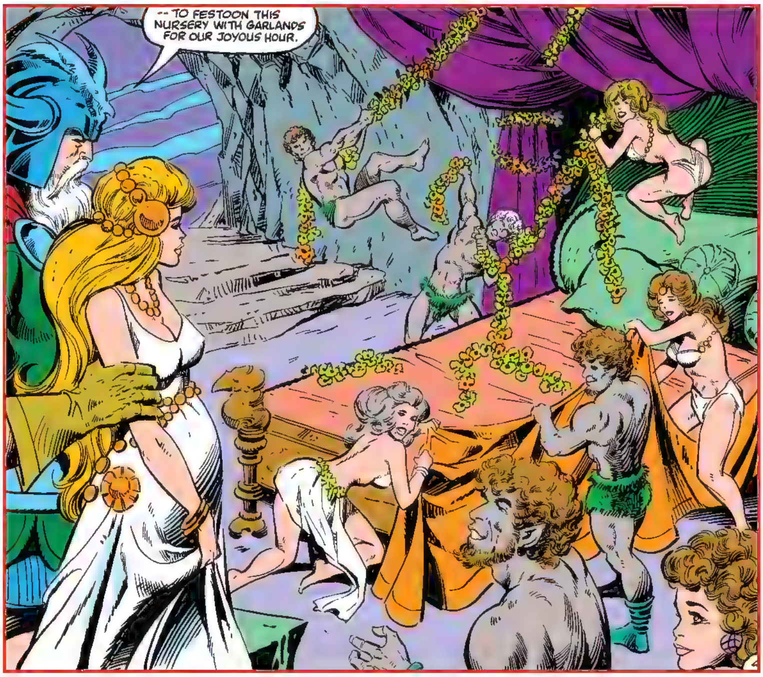
In the 14th century B.C., Anath-Na Mut was an Egyptian court wizard who was banished for losing a magical challenge to Moses. After wandering the desert for 90 years, Mut found the powerful Ka Stone and placed it on his brow, gaining vast reality-altering and energy-manipulating powers as well as eternal life. Over the subsequent centuries, Mut traversed the world and gained knowledge by absorbing it from others' minds, eventually coming to long for death. Mut became a crime lord known as the **Sphinx** in modern times. Mut's origin was told in ***Fantastic Four #212*** **(1979)** and ***Nova #6-7*** **(1977)**.



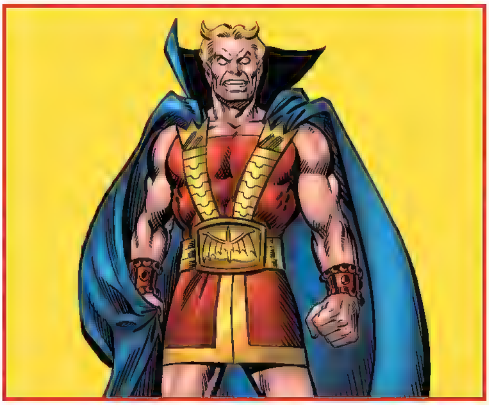
Founded to keep evil in check, the **Chaste** demands their members to be of astounding physical abilities and mental purity; any acolyte must survive the scaling of a massive, near-unscalable cliff to reach the Chaste's base to be considered for membership. Over time, the Chaste has become the archenemy of the demon-worshipping Hand. An early glimpse into the Chaste was provided in ***Daredevil #190*** **(1983)**.



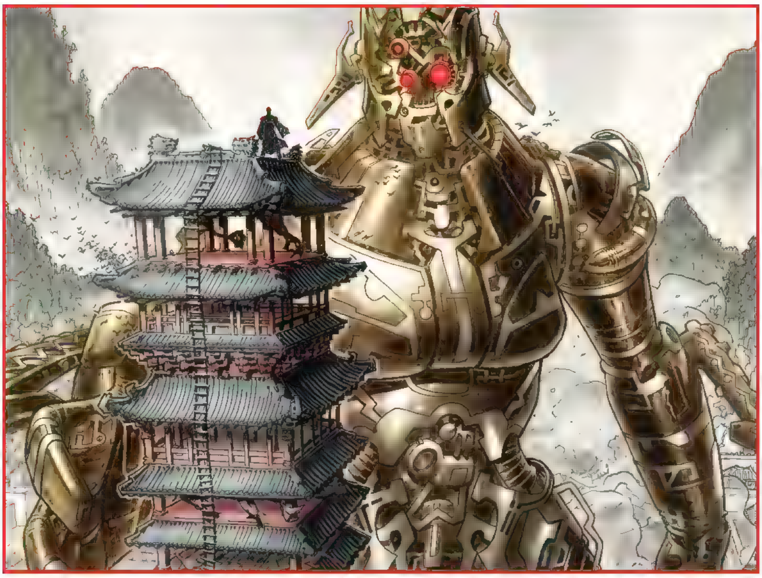
The origins of the mysterious group called the **HAND** can be traced back nearly four billion years with the birth of the demon-god Beast and its subsequent Japanese worshipers over history who vowed to dishonor God by destroying his creations. Over the centuries, the Hand has become a vast ninja assassin and mercenary guild that has mastered bringing the dead back to life. The beginnings of the Hand are told in ***Elektra: The Hand #1-5*** **(2004)**.


--TO FESTOON THIS NURSERY WITH GARLANDS FOR OUR JOYOUS HOUR.

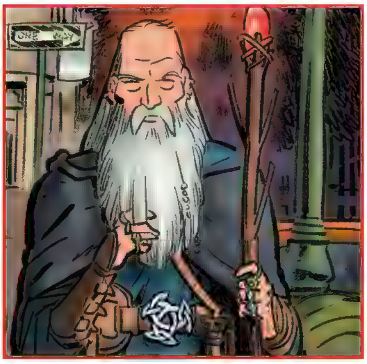
Desiring an heir of great power, Asgardian all-father Odin Borson sought out Gaea (Mother Earth), and together they conceived a son who would grow to become **Thor**, God of Thunder, and one of the greatest heroes of both Asgard and Earth. ***Thor Annual #11*** **(1983)**.



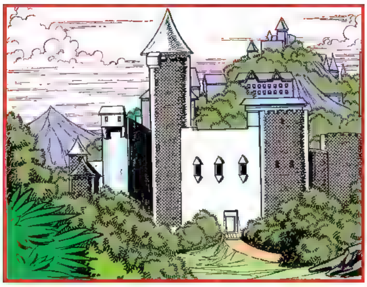
Romulus Augustulus (known to his foes as **Tyrannus**) was the last emperor of the Roman Empire. When he failed to overthrow King Arthur Pendragon, he was subsequently banished to the underground world of Subterranea. There, he found a fountain of youth and became ruler of a race of Subterranean slaves abandoned by the Deviants. His efforts to conquer the surface world continue today. Although yet to be depicted, Tyrannus' birth and childhood were briefly referenced in the second story of ***Avengers Annual #20*** **(1990)**.



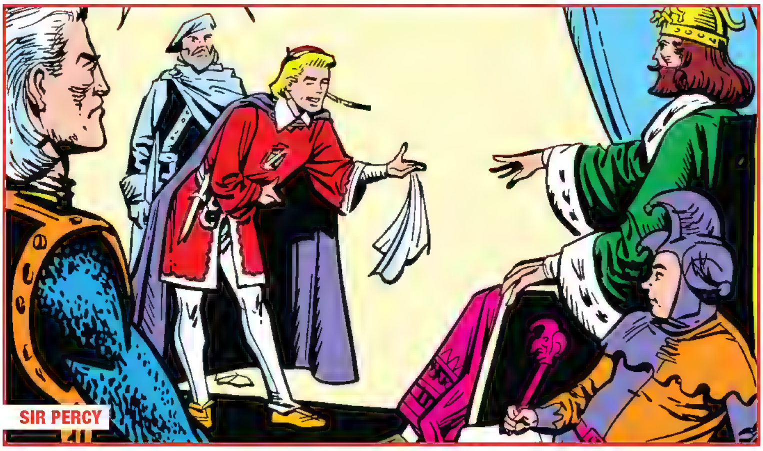
In 114 A.D., Zhang Heng of **the Brotherhood of the Shield confronted a Celestial** and convinced her to give birth within the Sun rather than at the center of Earth, which would destroy the planet. This interaction was shown in ***S.H.I.E.L.D. #1*** and ***#4*** **(2010)**.



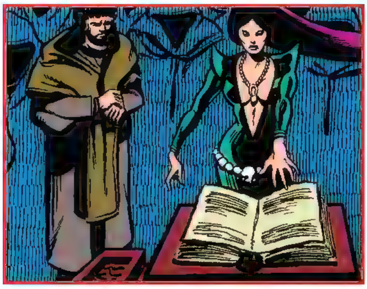
The life of **Merlin** is shrouded in mystery and misinformation, much of which has been spread by the man himself in his efforts to maintain the advantage over his opponents. Among what is known is his service to King Arthur Pendragon of Camelot and as the **Sorcerer Supreme of the Middle Ages**. While his taking that role has not been depicted, it was confirmed in ***Doctor Strange and the Sorcerers Supreme #1-2*** **(2016)**. Shown here is a form he has assumed in modern times, one of numerous guises he has created over the centuries.



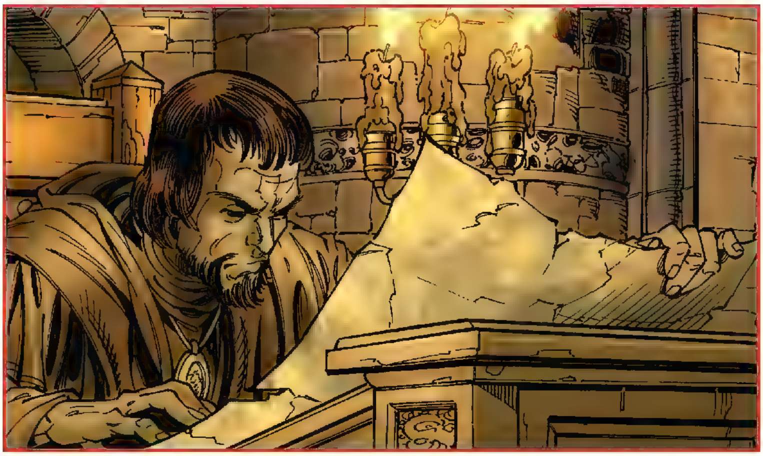
While the actual founding of the legendary **Camelot** has not yet been recorded in the Marvel Universe, various exploits have shown that the significant moments of King Arthur Pendragon, his Knights of the Round Table and his rule in the late fifth and early sixth centuries seem to follow those recorded in medieval folklore. The earliest Marvel depiction of Camelot is believed to be ***Young Allies #11*** **(1944)**, while ***Black Knight #1*** **(1955)** and ***Iron Man #150*** **(1981)** contain more in-depth tales set in that land.



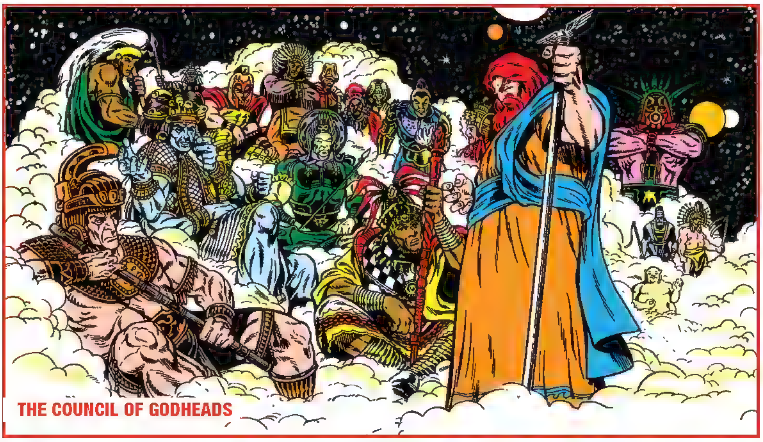
To better protect King Arthur Pendragon, Sir Percy of Scandia adopted the persona of a timid fop at the insistence of Merlin so that no one would suspect he was actually one of the greatest knights of Camelot—the **Black Knight**. Among Arthur's greatest enemies were his half sister, Morgan Le Fay, and illegitimate son, Mordred the Evil. ***Black Knight #1*** **(1955)** and ***Mystic Arcana: Black Knight #1*** **(2007)** hold depictions of the Black Knight's tale.

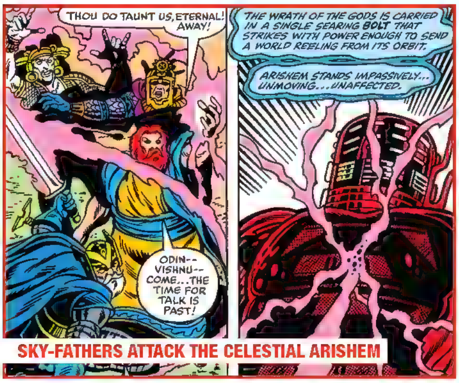


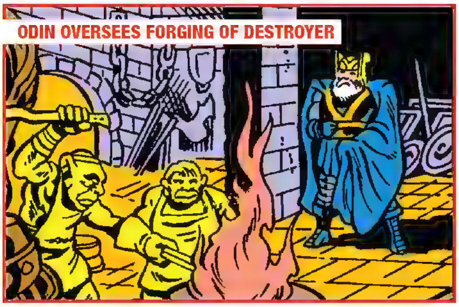
Half sister to King Arthur Pendragon, Morgan Le Fay was trained in sorcery by the legendary Merlin but frequently used her powers to try to conquer Britain rather than serve Camelot. Among her deeds was gathering the Elder God Chthon's magical scrolls and binding them together as the *Darkhold*, a dangerous book of evil that survives today. **Morgan Le Fay's creation of the *Darkhold*** can be found in ***Avengers #241*** **(1984)** and in the second story of ***Doctor Strange: Sorcerer Supreme #11*** **(1989)**.



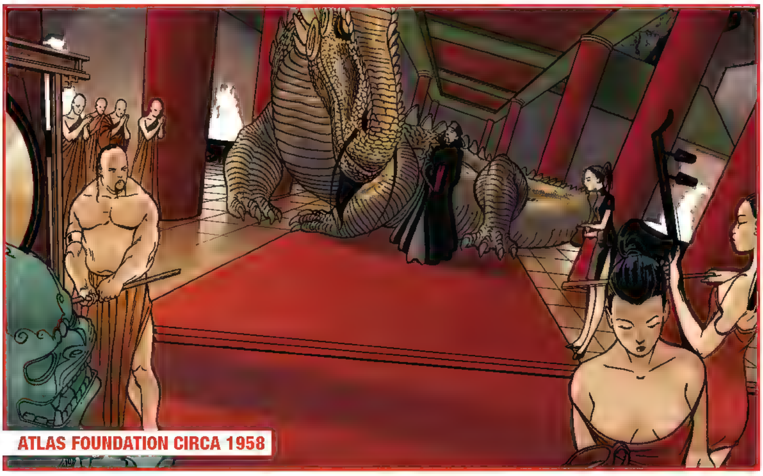
Esteban Corazón de Ablo was born in the ninth century in the Umayyad Caliphate, which is modern-day Zaragoza, Spain. Desiring the secrets of alchemy, de Ablo sold his soul to the demon Mephisto and mastered various black magics, eventually becoming the tyrant **Diablo**. Various potions have kept Diablo alive for centuries. ***Alpha Flight #21*** **(1985)** and ***Fantastic Four #525*** **(2005)**.


THE COUNCIL OF GODHEADS

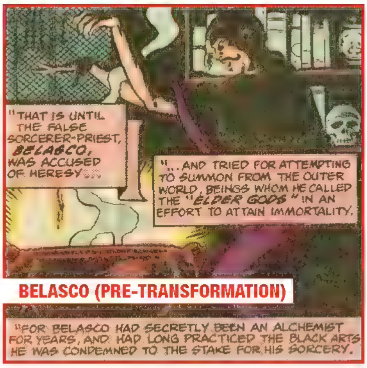

THOU DO TAUNT US, ETERNAL! AWAY!
THE WRATH OF THE GODS IS CARRIED IN A SINGLE SEARING BOLT THAT STRIKES WITH POWER ENOUGH TO SEND A WORLD REELING FROM ITS ORBIT.
ARISHEM STANDS IMPASSIVELY... UNMOVING... UNAFFECTED.
ODIN-- VISHNU-- COME... THE TIME FOR TALK IS PAST!
SKY-FATHERS ATTACK THE CELESTIAL ARISHEM


ODIN OVERSEES FORGING OF DESTROYER

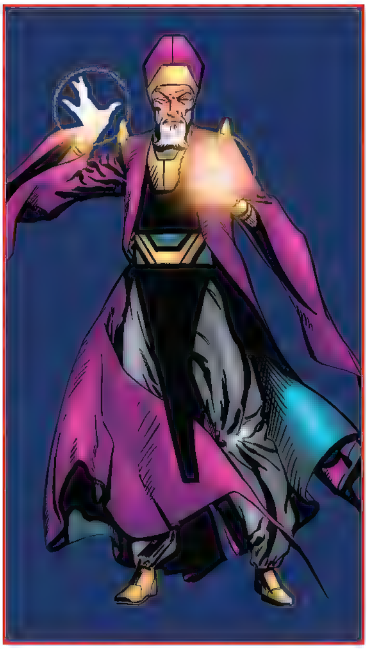
When the **Celestials' Third Host** returned to Earth approximately a thousand years ago, they found humanity had become the dominant species. Concerned that some of humanity began worshipping the Celestials instead of them, the rulers (Sky-Fathers) of numerous pantheons met as the **Council of Godheads** to discuss the problem. When Zeus of Olympia, Odin of Asgard and Vishnu of Nirvana confronted the Celestials, they were warned that the Sky-Fathers' interference with the Celestials' mission would result in Earth's connection to their pantheons being severed. The gods agreed not to obstruct the Celestials for a thousand years. Odin, however, created the immensely powerful **Destroyer**, a weapon that would serve as the spearhead in the all-out war he believed would arise when the Celestials' Fourth Host eventually returned to assess Earth's worthiness. The Council of Godheads' confrontation with the Celestials' Third Host and the creation of the Destroyer can be found in ***Thor #300*** **(1980)**.


ATLAS FOUNDATION CIRCA 1958

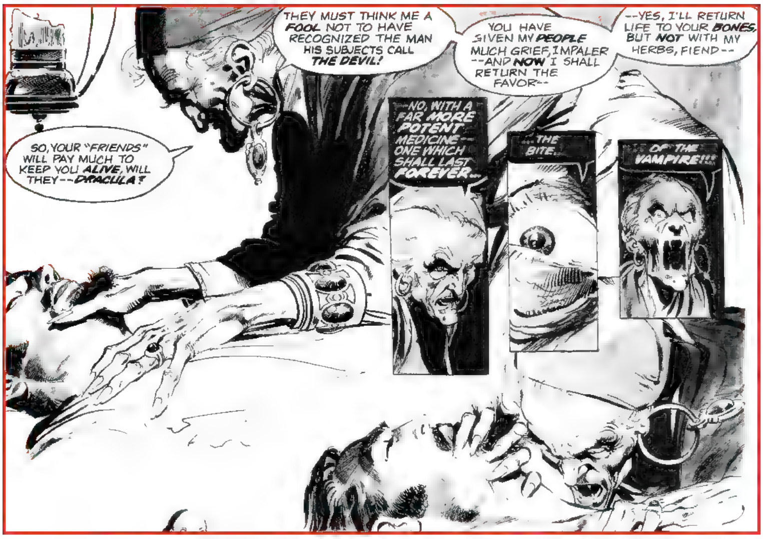
A successor to the Mongol Empire of the legendary thirteenth-century warlord Genghis Khan, the **Atlas Foundation** is a secret society based in advanced science and sorcery that has both sought world domination and used its covert influence for humanity's benefit over hundreds of years. An immortal dragon called Mr. Lao serves as an adviser to the Foundation's leader (Khan). The name of the Atlas Foundation was inspired by Mr. Lao's battle against a powerful genie in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco more than 700 years ago. While the history of the Atlas Foundation prior to the 1950s has yet to be visually depicted in the Marvel Universe, the details we do know were revealed in ***Agents of Atlas #1-6*** **(2006-2007)**, ***Agents of Atlas #1-11*** **(2009)** and ***Atlas #1-5*** **(2010)**.


"THAT IS UNTIL THE FALSE SORCERER-PRIEST, BELASCO, WAS ACCUSED OF HERESY...
"...AND TRIED FOR ATTEMPTING TO SUMMON FROM THE OUTER WORLD, BEINGS WHOM HE CALLED THE "ELDER GODS" IN AN EFFORT TO ATTAIN IMMORTALITY.
"FOR BELASCO HAD SECRETLY BEEN AN ALCHEMIST FOR YEARS, AND HAD LONG PRACTICED THE BLACK ARTS. HE WAS CONDEMNED TO THE STAKE FOR HIS SORCERY.
BELASCO (PRE-TRANSFORMATION)

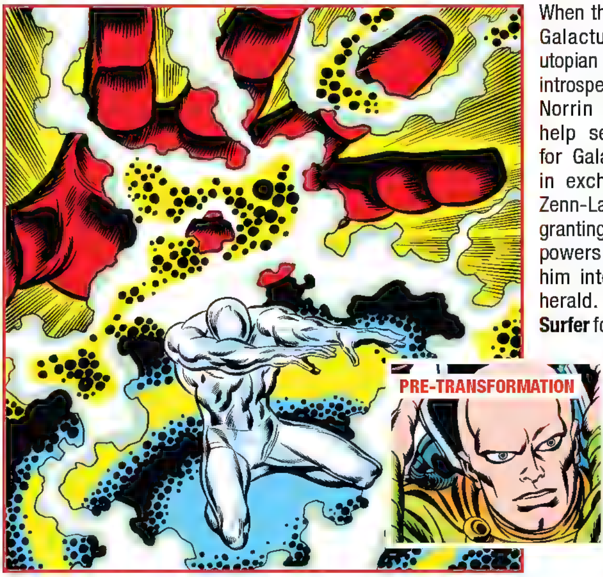
Belasco was an alchemist and sorcerer who sought to aid the demonic spawn of the Elder God Chthon in accessing Earth's dimension in exchange for immortality. After he was accused of heresy and sentenced to death by Florentine authorities in 1289 A.D., Belasco fled, kidnapping a woman he was enamored with. Pursued by a man who loved the woman, Belasco, now demonically transformed to have red skin, a tail and horns, found his way to the Savage Land, where he continued his service to his demonic masters. The man who pursued Belasco—Durante "Dante" Alighieri—later wrote about his ordeals against his demonic foe in *The Divine Comedy*. Belasco's origin can be found in ***Ka-Zar the Savage #11-12*** **(1982)**.



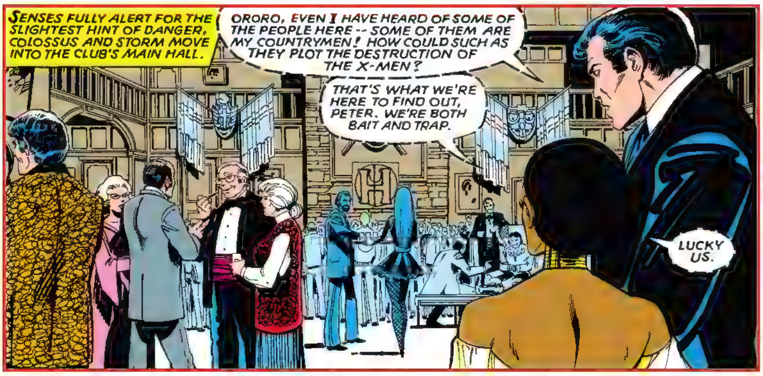
Born in the 1430s, Yao served as an apprentice doctor in his Tibetan tribe before relocating to the Himalayan village of Kamar-Taj, where he studied sorcery. When a fellow villager named Kaluu seized control of Kamar-Taj with the help of the vampire Vamae, Yao fought back using sorcery, accidentally killing the population of Kamar-Taj while doing so. A guilt-ridden Yao dedicated his life to fighting those who would inappropriately use sorcery. Slowing his aging with magic, Yao had become Earth's Sorcerer Supreme by 1666; Yao was known as the **Ancient One** by 1939. Yao's birth has not been depicted, but his enmity with Kaluu and his claiming the Sorcerer Supreme role were detailed in the second stories in ***Doctor Strange: Sorcerer Supreme #23*** **(1990)** and ***Strange Tales #148*** **(1966)**.


THEY MUST THINK ME A FOOL NOT TO HAVE RECOGNIZED THE MAN HIS SUBJECTS CALL THE DEVIL!
YOU HAVE GIVEN MY PEOPLE MUCH GRIEF, IMPALER --AND NOW I SHALL RETURN THE FAVOR--
--YES, I'LL RETURN LIFE TO YOUR BONES, BUT NOT WITH MY HERBS, FIEND--
SO, YOUR "FRIENDS" WILL PAY MUCH TO KEEP YOU ALIVE, WILL THEY--DRACULA?
--NO, WITH A FAR MORE POTENT MEDICINE-- ONE WHICH SHALL LAST FOREVER...
...THE BITE...
...OF THE VAMPIRE!!!

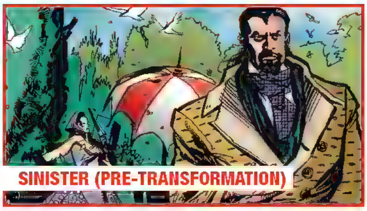
Wallachian prince Vlad Tepes **Dracula** was born in 1430 A.D. In 1459, Dracula was gravely wounded in a war against Turkey. Believing Dracula to be of strategic value, Turkish warlord Turac took him to a Romani healer instead of killing him. However, the healer, who was secretly a vampire, bit Dracula and turned him into a vampire. After passing tests set forth by the first vampire, Varnae, Dracula became Lord of Vampires. Dracula's bloody reign of terror continues to modern times. ***Dracula Lives #2-3* (1973**) and the fourth story in ***Bizarre Adventures #33* (1982)** provide much of Dracula's origins.


PRE-TRANSFORMATION

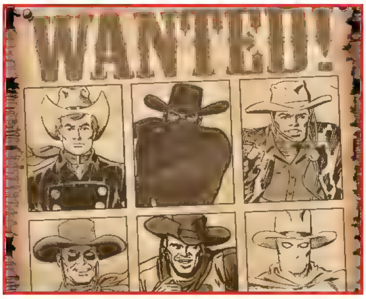
When the planet-devouring Galactus came to the utopian planet Zenn-La, the introspective and scholarly Norrin Radd offered to help seek other worlds for Galactus to consume in exchange for sparing Zenn-La. Galactus agreed, granting Radd vast cosmic powers and transforming him into a silver-skinned herald. Called the **Silver Surfer** for the flying board he rode, the Surfer served Galactus for hundreds of years, enjoying his exploration of the universe. The Silver Surfer's story is told in ***Silver Surfer #1* (1968)**.


SENSES FULLY ALERT FOR THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF DANGER, COLOSSUS AND STORM MOVE INTO THE CLUB'S MAIN HALL.
ORORO, EVEN I HAVE HEARD OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE HERE -- SOME OF THEM ARE MY COUNTRYMEN! HOW COULD SUCH AS THEY PLOT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE X-MEN?
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO FIND OUT, PETER. WE'RE BOTH BAIT AND TRAP.
LUCKY US.

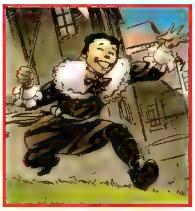
The origins of the Marvel Universe's **Hellfire Club** are believed to mirror the historical Hellfire Club, which was founded in 1720 by Philip, Duke of Wharton, as a place for the elite to indulge in hedonism and debauchery. By the late 1780s in the Marvel Universe, the club had gone worldwide, its inner circles seeking power through political, economic, subversive and superhuman activities. Even today, members of the club traditionally wear eighteenth-century garb. Much of what is known of the club's history was revealed in ***X-Men: Hellfire Club #1-4* (2000)**.


SINISTER (PRE-TRANSFORMATION)

***The Further Adventures of Cyclops & Phoenix #1-4* (1996)** reveal the origins of nineteenth-century biologist Nathaniel Essex, the man who would become the mad geneticist **Mister Sinister**. Essex became obsessed with Darwin's evolutionary theories after his son died from multiple ailments and birth defects. Academia rejected Essex for his lack of morals in researching humanity's capacity for mutation. Eventually swearing obedience to the ancient mutant Apocalypse, Essex was granted superhuman abilities and long life. Mister Sinister's twisted experiments continue today.



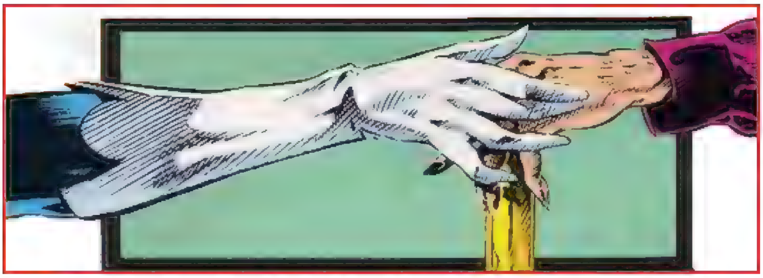
Among the legends of the Old West of the United States are the expert marksman and justice-seeking **Rawhide Kid**, the gun-fighting **Kid Colt**, the adventure-seeking **Two-Gun Kid** (secretly the Harvard-trained lawyer Matt Hawk) and the white-garbed vigilante **Phantom Rider** (Carter Slade), who used trickery to make others believe he was a ghost. Slade also rode as the Night Rider and the Ghost Rider. These men helped protect the innocent during the American westward expansion and are well known in the legends of the Old West still told today. Through time travel, the Two-Gun Kid has spent time in the modern era, striving to help the helpless alongside Earth's costumed superhumans. Some of the adventures of the Wild West heroes can be found in ***Blaze of Glory #1-4* (2000)**, ***Ghost Rider #1*** (1967), ***Kid Colt #1-4* (2009)** and ***Rawhide Kid #1-5*** (2003).



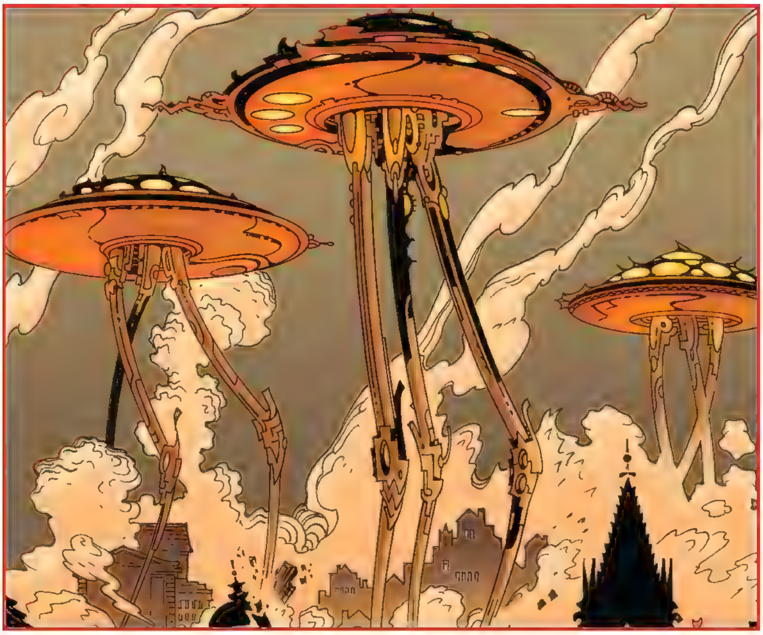
James Howlett was born in Canada near the end of the nineteenth century. The sickly and frail boy was unaware his true father was not the kindly John Howlett Sr. but instead the cruel Thomas Logan, who served the Howlett family as groundskeeper. When Logan killed Howlett Sr., the shock caused Howlett Jr.'s mutant claws to manifest. Fleeing his homestead, Howlett Jr. repressed his traumatic memories and began a nomadic life as Logan. Multiple subsequent traumas over the following years caused Logan to slip into a feral state occasionally, but he still served as a mercenary, a spy, a government operative and eventually the super hero known as Wolverine. ***Origin #1-6* (2001-2002)**.

HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #2 ANNOTATIONS

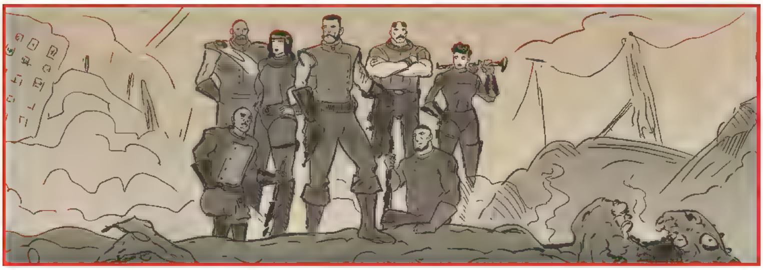
Design: Stacie Zucker

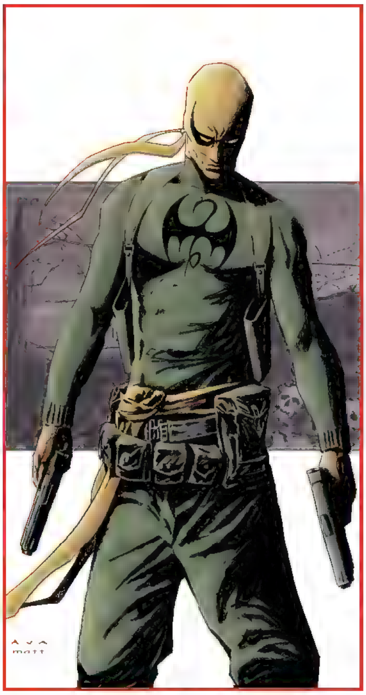


***X-Treme X-Men #1* (2001)** detailed the manifestation of privileged teen Irene Adler's precognitive powers. Blinded by her powers and gaining the terrible burden of helping shape the future drove her to frustration and terrorism. After recruiting the help of the shape-shifting detective Raven Darkhölme in her quest, the two became **Destiny and Mystique**—future members of the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. Eventually, the two became lovers, as initially implied in ***Marvel Fanfare #40* (1988)**.

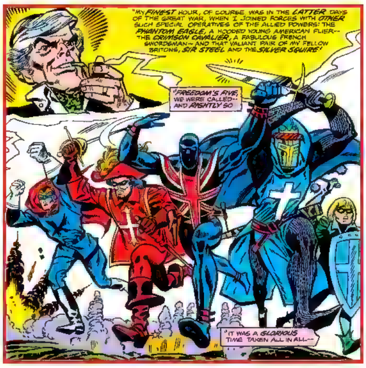


Eben Stafford was among the **Men on the Wall**—a group of humans who secretly battled extraterrestrials since at least 1913—when they battled an alien invasion of London in 1917 from the shadows while superhumans like Freedom's Five fought the aliens directly. The Men on the Wall gradually fell in battle, but Stafford survived and continued his war against cosmic threats to Earth into the 1940s; his subsequent activities are unrevealed. ***Original Sin Annual #1* (2014)** reveals details about Stafford and his legacy.

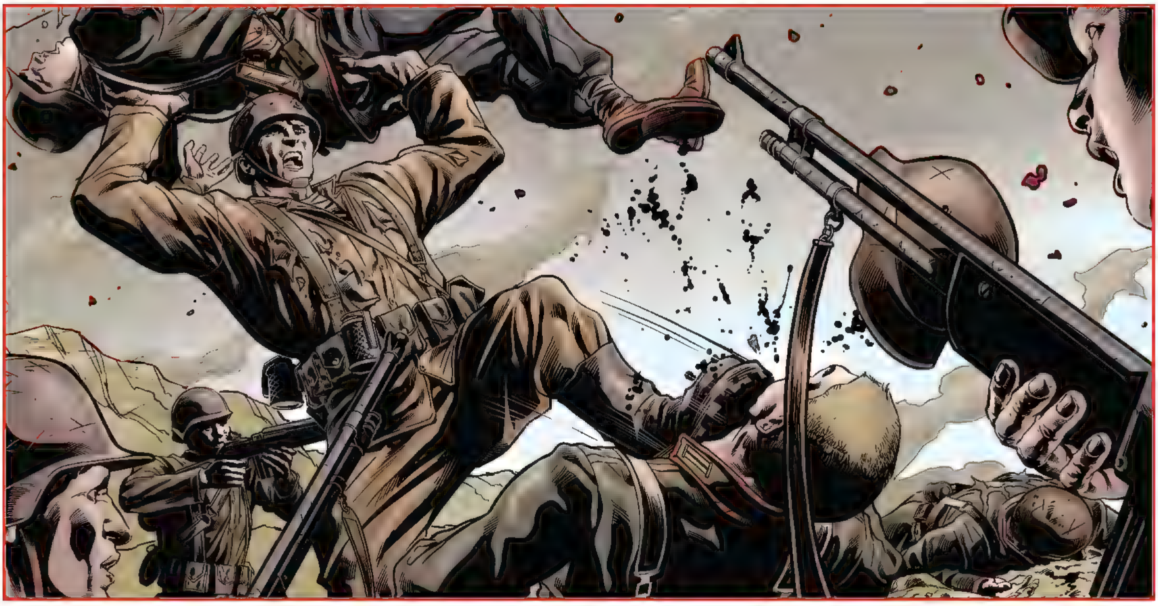




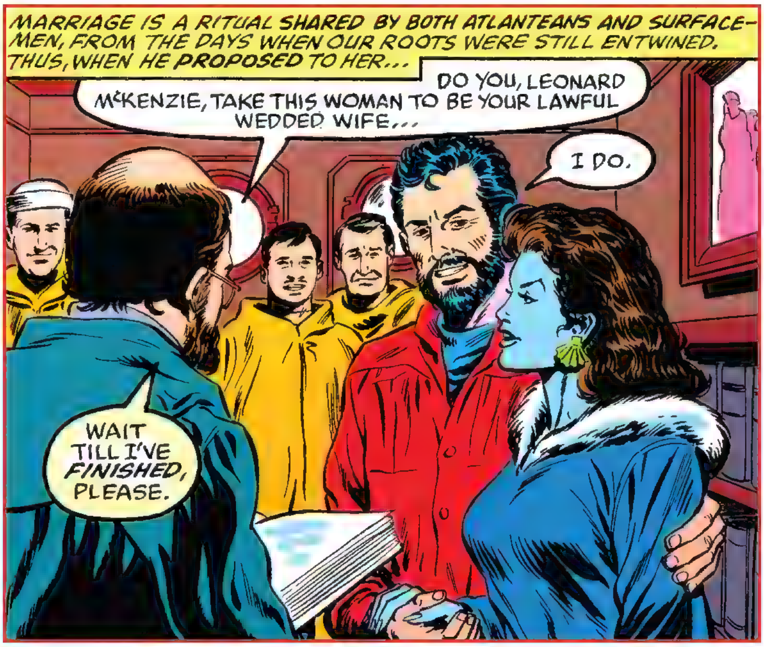
After his parents crash-landed their aircraft in K'un-Lun, an extradimensional city that periodically appears on Earth, **Orson Randall** was born and welcomed by the city's residents as a native. After years of training, Randall defeated the dragon Shou-Lao the Undying in battle, earning the role of the **Iron Fist**, K'un-Lun's greatest defender. Randall's origin is told in ***Immortal Iron Fist #1-6* (2007)**.


"MY FINEST HOUR, OF COURSE, WAS IN THE LATTER DAYS OF THE GREAT WAR, WHEN I JOINED FORCES WITH OTHER SUCH SPECIAL OPERATIVES OF THE ALLIED POWERS: THE PHANTOM EAGLE, A HOODED YOUNG AMERICAN FLIER-- THE CRIMSON CAVALIER, A FABULOUS FRENCH SWORDSMAN-- AND THAT VALIANT PAIR OF MY FELLOW BRITONS, SIR STEEL AND THE SILVER SQUIRE!
"FREEDOM'S FIVE, WE WERE CALLED-- AND RIGHTLY SO
"IT WAS A GLORIOUS TIME TAKEN ALL IN ALL--

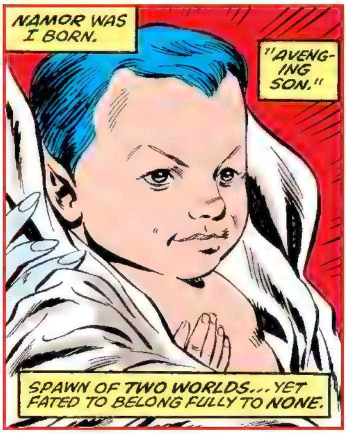
Randall's periodic journeys to Earth's dimension include battles in No Man's Land during World War I and in 1917 briefly serving as a member of **Freedom's Five**, a group of costumed men from the United States, Great Britain and France who opposed Germany during the war. Read about the Freedom's Five's exploits in ***All-New Invaders #12* (2015)** and ***Invaders #7* (1976)**.



John Steele was a United States soldier who battled Germans during World War I using his superhuman strength and durability in battle; the source of these powers remains unrevealed. Steele was captured sometime toward the end of the war and placed into suspended animation by the Germans. Over the subsequent two decades, German scientists experimented on Steele in efforts to learn how to replicate his powers; among these scientists was Abraham Erskine, who wanted to perfect human physiology to end disease and infirmity. What is known about Steele (as well as some further hints about his history) is told in ***Secret Avengers #11* (2011)** and ***The Marvels Project #1-8* (2009-2010)**.

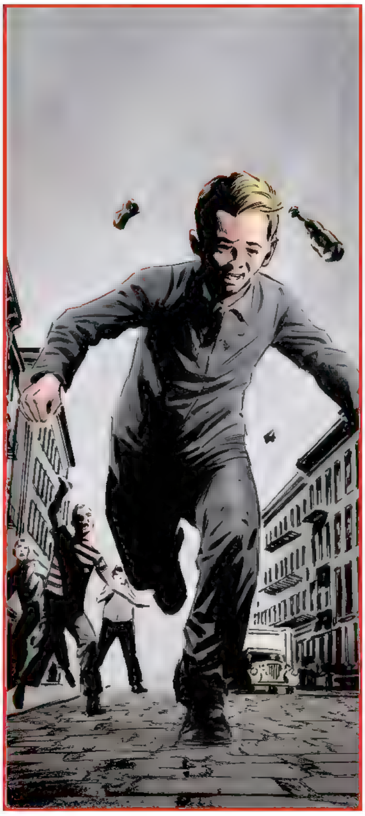


MARRIAGE IS A RITUAL SHARED BY BOTH ATLANTEANS AND SURFACE-MEN, FROM THE DAYS WHEN OUR ROOTS WERE STILL ENTWINED. THUS, WHEN HE PROPOSED TO HER...
DO YOU, LEONARD McKENZIE, TAKE THIS WOMAN TO BE YOUR LAWFUL WEDDED WIFE...
I DO.
WAIT TILL I'VE FINISHED, PLEASE.

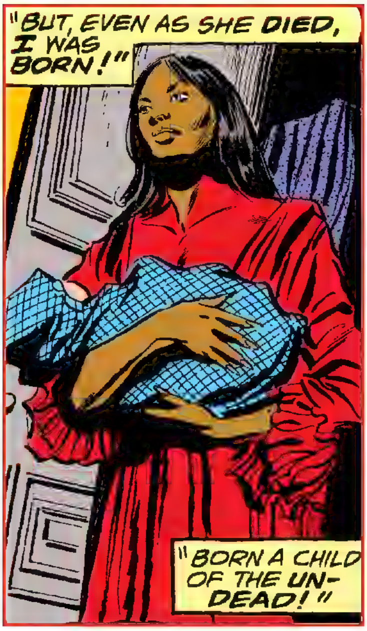


NAMOR WAS I BORN.
"AVENGING SON."
SPAWN OF TWO WORLDS... YET FATED TO BELONG FULLY TO NONE.

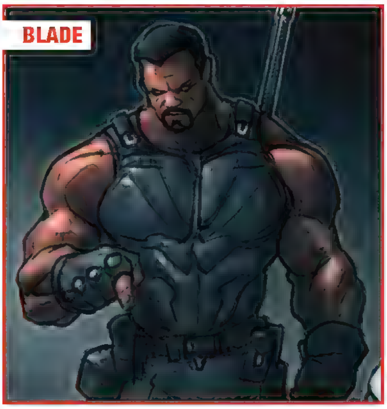
When American seaman Captain Leonard McKenzie used explosive charges to break ice during an Antarctic expedition in 1920, he unwittingly caused great destruction in the underwater city of Atlantis. Atlantean Princess Fen journeyed to the surface to investigate but was captured by McKenzie's men. Over the following weeks of captivity, Fen and McKenzie became friends then fell in love. After their marriage, they conceived a child. However, Fen's father, Emperor Thakorr, sent troops to recover Fen. McKenzie was believed killed during the skirmish. Sometime after returning to Atlantis, Fen gave birth to the pink-skinned Namor ("Avenging Son" in Atlantean). Namor's unusual origins granted him vast hybrid mutant powers. The ill-fated **romance between Leonard McKenzie and Fen** and the **birth of Namor** are detailed in ***Marvel Comics #1* (1939)** and ***Saga of the Sub-Mariner #1* (1989)**.

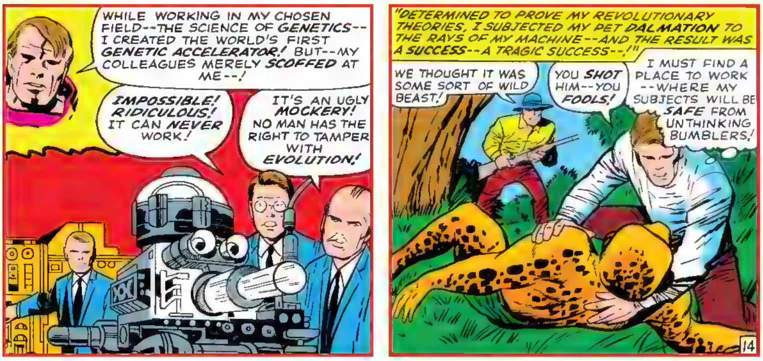


Steve Rogers was born in 1922, grew up during the Great Depression and was often bullied by local Brooklyn boys for his slight, sickly frame and his artistic dreams. Despite his tortured childhood, Rogers developed a strong sense of right and wrong from his grandfather's tales of men and women who resisted oppression over history. ***The Marvels Project #4* (2010)** depicts Rogers' bullying while ***Marvel Holiday Special* (1994)** shows the influence his grandfather had on the boy.

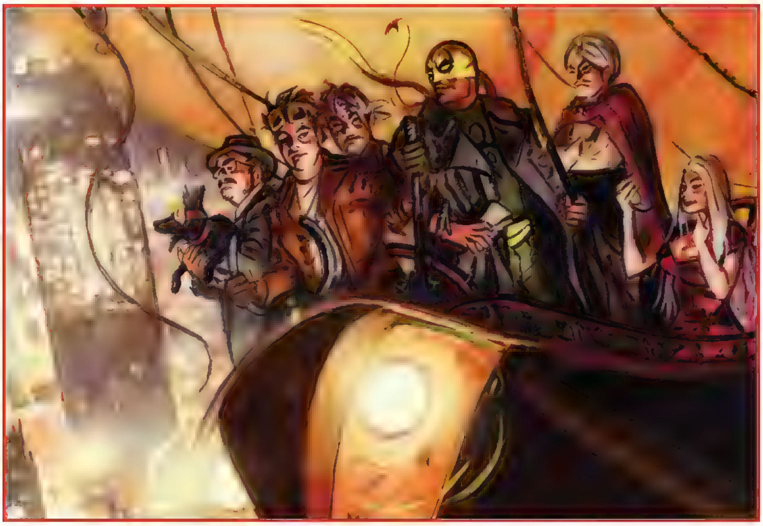

"BUT, EVEN AS SHE DIED, I WAS BORN!"
"BORN A CHILD OF THE UN-DEAD!"

When a vampire fed on a pregnant woman while she was giving birth, enzymes transferred to the surviving infant, making him a Dhampir—a being affected by a vampire's bite but not converted to one. By age nine, **Eric Brooks** began his lifelong quest to destroy vampires; by adulthood, he had earned the name Blade for his proficiency with bladed weapons. ***Tomb of Dracula #13*** **(1973)** and ***#58*** **(1977)**.

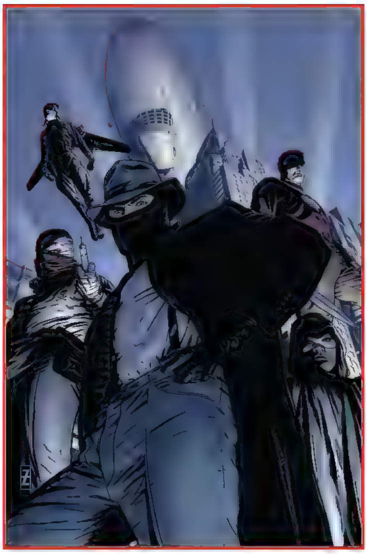



WHILE WORKING IN MY CHOSEN FIELD--THE SCIENCE OF GENETICS--I CREATED THE WORLD'S FIRST GENETIC ACCELERATOR! BUT--MY COLLEAGUES MERELY SCOFFED AT ME--!
IMPOSSIBLE! RIDICULOUS! IT CAN NEVER WORK!
IT'S AN UGLY MOCKERY! NO MAN HAS THE RIGHT TO TAMPER WITH EVOLUTION!
"DETERMINED TO PROVE MY REVOLUTIONARY THEORIES, I SUBJECTED MY PET DALMATION TO THE RAYS OF MY MACHINE--AND THE RESULT WAS A SUCCESS--A TRAGIC SUCCESS--!"
WE THOUGHT IT WAS SOME SORT OF WILD BEAST!
YOU SHOT HIM--YOU FOOLS!
I MUST FIND A PLACE TO WORK --WHERE MY SUBJECTS WILL BE SAFE FROM UNTHINKING BUMBLERS!
14

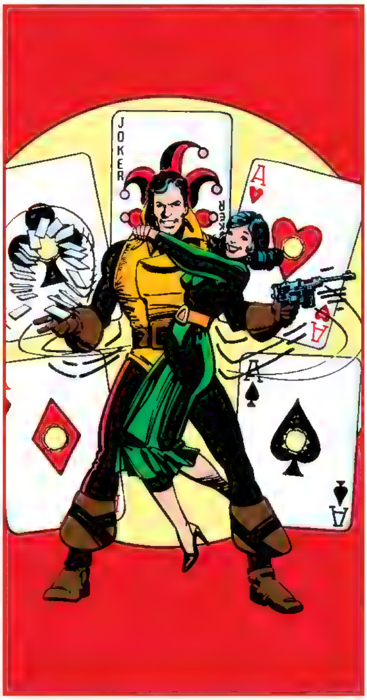
By the late 1920s, aspiring geneticist Herbert Wyndham had built a genetic accelerator to further his studies. Through the 1930s Wyndham's skills had advanced to the point where he could transform animals to human form and sentience. Wyndham named these beings the **New Men**, who in turn began calling their creator the **High Evolutionary**. The third story in ***Punisher Annual #1*** **(1988)** and ***Thor #135*** **(1966)** summarize Wyndham's origin story.



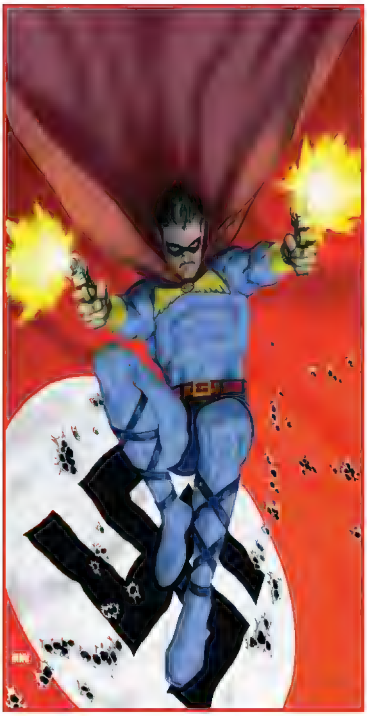
Immortal Iron Fist Annual #1 **(2007)** and ***Immortal Iron Fist: Orson Randall and the Green Mist of Death #1*** **(2008)** detail the exploits of the **Confederates of the Curious**, a group of friends who gathered around Orson Randall amid his global adventures. The Confederates comprised Randall; the Contessa, Vera Vidal; circus strongman Chores Macgillicuddy; orphan Wendell Rand; magician Shadu the Shady; journalist Ernst Erskine and Barko the dog. Within a few years, Randall disbanded the Confederacy to protect them from his extradimensional enemies.



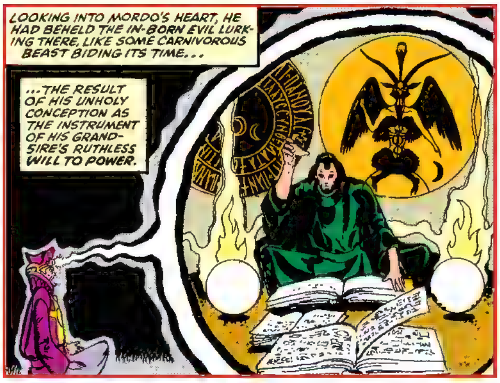
The dark, conspiracy-laden streets of 1932's New York City drew together a disparate group of people who took up arms against the forces of the would-be conqueror General, the mystical powers behind his efforts and the Board—a corrupt cabal of businessmen who caused the Great Depression. ***Mystery Men #1-5*** **(2011)** contain the only recorded activities (to date) of stage magician Revenant, the gentleman thief Operative, super-powered swordsman Achilles, the high-flying rocketeer Aviatrix and the twisted, syringe-wielding Surgeon.



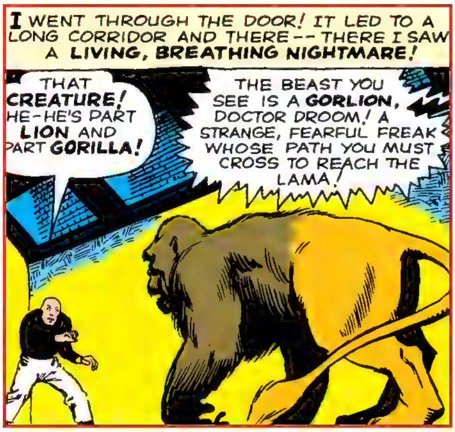
By the 1930s, the good-hearted Duvid Fortunov had earned a reputation growing up as a tough young man in Prohibition-era New York City. After crossing a violent mobster, Fortunov moved to California and adopted the name **Dominic Fortune**. He soon began a career as a swashbuckling brigand-for-hire on both coasts. ***Marvel Premiere #56*** **(1980)** and ***Marvel Preview #2*** **(1975)** depict two of Fortune's adventures.



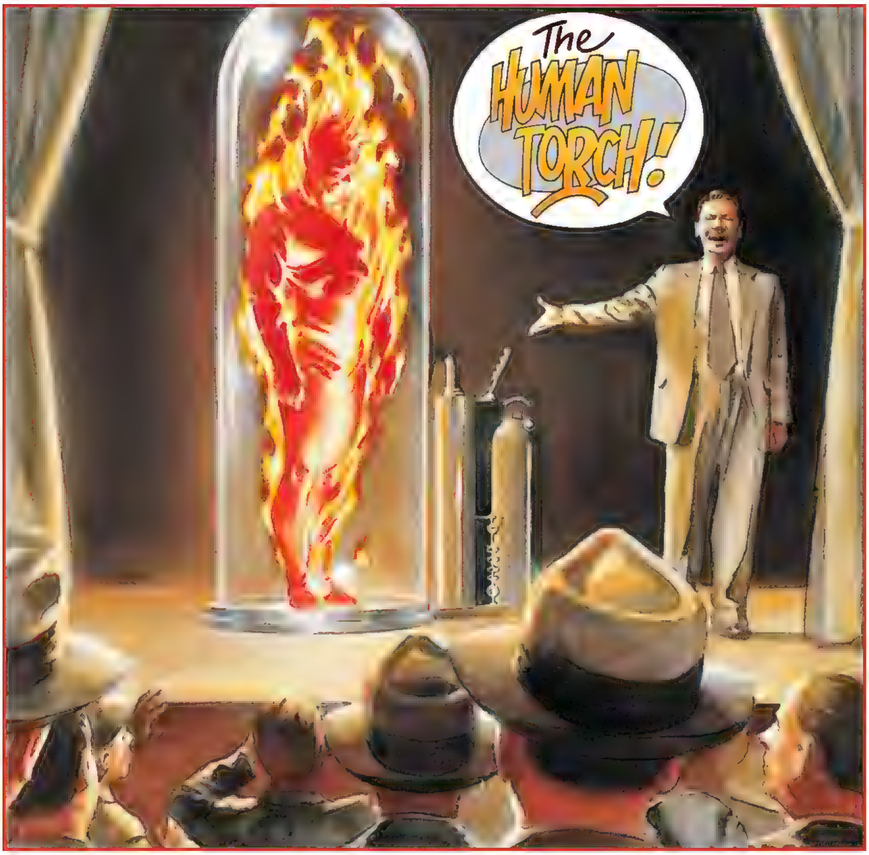
Thomas Halloway grew up in a prison where his father was the warden, giving him vast knowledge of the criminal underworld. As a wealthy former surgeon, Halloway became a costumed detective using his skills to fight crime as early as 1936. **Angel** first appears in ***Marvel Comics #1* (1939)** while ***The Marvels Project #1-8* (2009-2010)** chronicles some of his exploits.


LOOKING INTO MORDO'S HEART, HE HAD BEHELD THE IN-BORN EVIL LURKING THERE, LIKE SOME CARNIVOROUS BEAST BIDING ITS TIME...
...THE RESULT OF HIS UNHOLY CONCEPTION AS THE INSTRUMENT OF HIS GRANDSIRE'S RUTHLESS WILL TO POWER.

Karl Mordo was born to a Transylvanian baron in 1921. By 1939, the second **Baron Mordo** had become a disciple of Earth's Sorcerer Supreme, the Ancient One, who hoped to teach Mordo how to restrain the evil his mentor sensed in him. Despite the Ancient One's influence, Mordo's fascination with dark and destructive magic persisted, and by the early 1940s he had allied with the extradimensional tyrant Dormammu, ending any hope the Ancient One had for his pupil's redemption. The backup stories in ***Doctor Strange: Sorcerer Supreme #6-8* (1989)** explain Baron Mordo's origin.

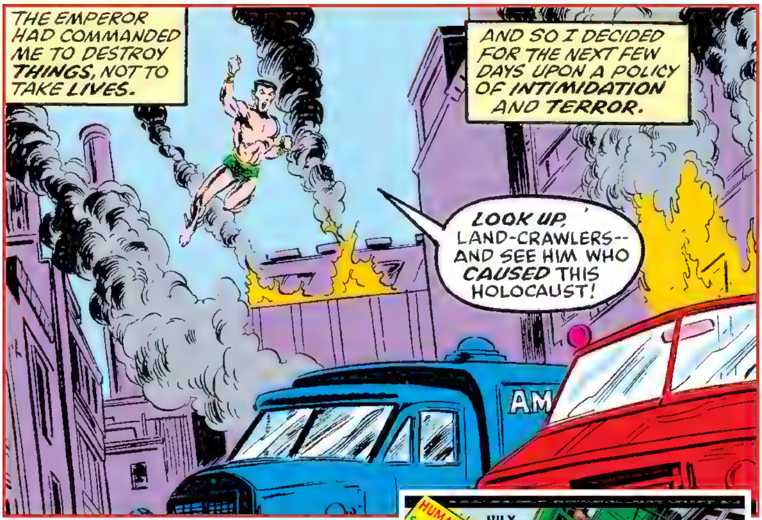

I WENT THROUGH THE DOOR! IT LED TO A LONG CORRIDOR AND THERE -- THERE I SAW A LIVING, BREATHING NIGHTMARE!
THAT CREATURE! HE-HE'S PART LION AND PART GORILLA!
THE BEAST YOU SEE IS A GORLION, DOCTOR DROOM! A STRANGE, FEARFUL FREAK WHOSE PATH YOU MUST CROSS TO REACH THE LAMA!

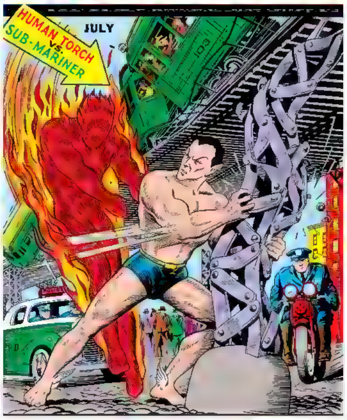
Dr. Anthony Druid was a Harvard-educated physician who had become famous through the 1940s for a series of books he had written about psychology. In the early 1950s, Druid answered a summons from a dying Tibetan lama seeking medical aid, only to be met by a series of bizarre mystical tests. After passing the tests, the lama expanded Druid's mind so he could begin using previously hidden mystical and psychic powers, then apparently died. However, the lama was secretly the Ancient One, who was not dying but instead practicing his ability to transfer power to another in preparation for finding a replacement Sorcerer Supreme. Druid became a powerful practitioner of the mystic arts and the crimefighter called Doctor Droom, then later **Doctor Druid**. His origin can be found in ***Weird Wonder Tales #19* (1976)**.


The HUMAN TORCH!

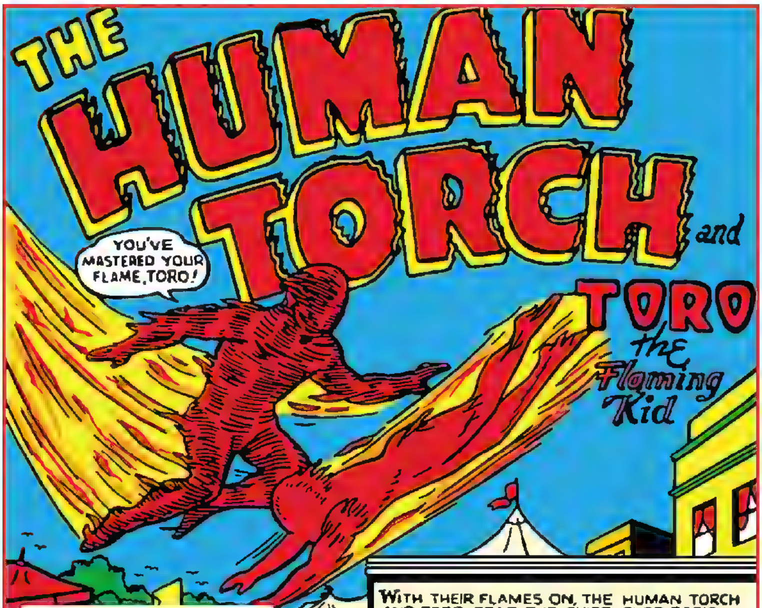
BY THE WAY—HOW DID YOU GET OUT OF JAIL? IF YOU MADE A BREAK I'M GOING TO SEND YOU BACK...
THE TORCH SNAPS OFF HIS FLAME!

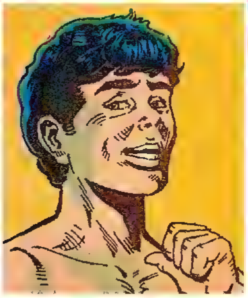
***Marvel Comics #1* (1939)**, ***Marvels #1* (1994)** and ***Saga of the Original Human Torch #1* (1990)** detail Professor Phineas Horton and Dr. James Bradley's creation of the **Human Torch**, an android that would unexpectedly burst into flames when exposed to oxygen but not burn. When presented to the public in 1939, public fear and outcries forced Horton to bury the Torch. When oxygen seeped into his tomb, the Torch's flames freed him; after nitrogen granted him control of his flames, the Torch gained public acceptance when he stopped a criminal siege in New York City and began a crime-fighting career.


THE EMPEROR HAD COMMANDED ME TO DESTROY THINGS, NOT TO TAKE LIVES.
AND SO I DECIDED FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS UPON A POLICY OF INTIMIDATION AND TERROR.
LOOK UP, LAND-CRAWLERS-- AND SEE HIM WHO CAUSED THIS HOLOCAUST!
AM

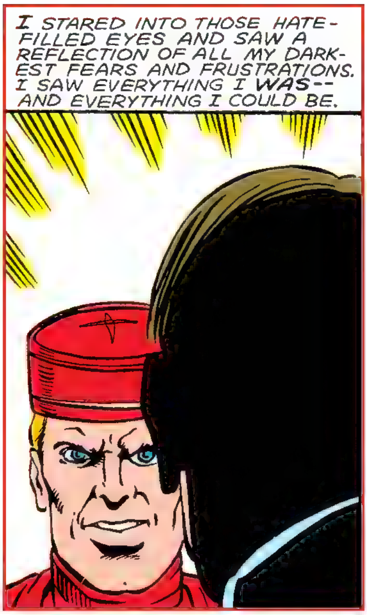

HUMAN TORCH VS SUB-MARINER
JULY

Unaware an oxygen imbalance in his body's chemistry due to his amphibious nature was causing him to be irrationally violent, **Namor attacked New York City** in early 1940 after a series of misunderstandings with surface dwellers. Now a police officer, **the Human Torch fought Namor** in battles that raged throughout the city, in the air and underwater. Despite these fights, a mutual respect and deep friendship blossomed between the two. Namor's violent interactions with the surface world and the epic battles between Namor and the Human Torch are shown in ***Human Torch Comics #5B*** **(1941)**, ***Marvel Mystery Comics #2-10*** **(1939-1940)** and ***Saga of Namor, the Sub-Mariner #2-4*** (1988).

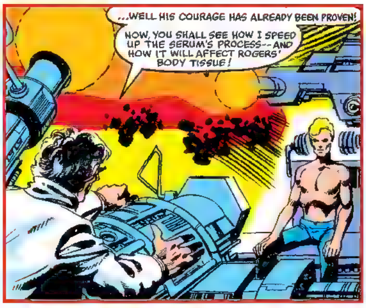

THE HUMAN TORCH and TORO the Flaming Kid
YOU'VE MASTERED YOUR FLAME, TORO!
WITH THEIR FLAMES ON, THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO SEAR THE SKIES OVER POP'S CIRCUS BY TEACHING YOUNG TORO TO MASTER HIS FLAME. THE HUMAN TORCH HOPES TO HELP TORO FORGET THE ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF HIS PARENTS..



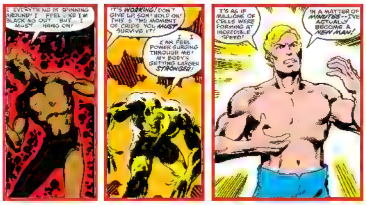
Human Torch Comics #2 **(1940)** features the debut of **Toro**, a young boy named Thomas Raymond who had a complete immunity to fire and who could manipulate flames to allow him to fly and perform feats similar to the Human Torch. The Torch made the orphaned Toro his ward and sidekick after learning of his powers. Over the years, Toro's powers have been theorized to be a result of mutant genes, his parents' extensive research and experimentations in fireproofing materials before his birth or latent Inhuman genes in Toro's family tree.

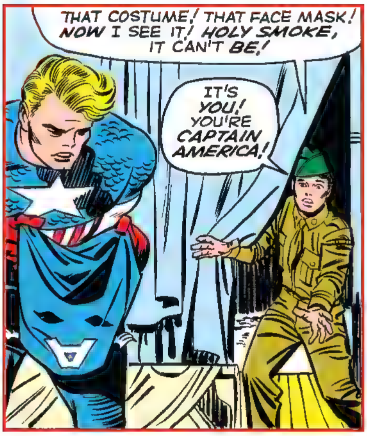

I STARED INTO THOSE HATE-FILLED EYES AND SAW A REFLECTION OF ALL MY DARKEST FEARS AND FRUSTRATIONS. I SAW EVERYTHING I WAS-- AND EVERYTHING I COULD BE.

When Adolf Hitler encountered bellhop Johann Shmidt, he discovered a kindred spirit of hatred. After being personally trained by Hitler, Shmidt quickly became second only to Hitler and one of the most feared figures among Nazi forces, especially after adopting the costumed identity of the **Red Skull**. The Skull's origin is revealed in ***Captain America #298*** **(1984)**.


...WELL HIS COURAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVEN!
NOW, YOU SHALL SEE HOW I SPEED UP THE SERUM'S PROCESS--AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT ROGERS' BODY TISSUE!

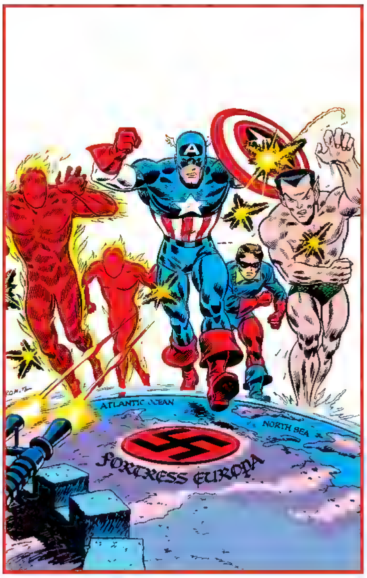
Powerless Steve Rogers sought to join the U.S. armed forces in order to help stop the growing Nazi evil he observed in newsreels, but was rejected for his sickly, small frame. However, in 1940, he was invited to participate in Operation: Rebirth, a program centered around the work of Abraham Erskine. Though the experiment was successful in turning Rogers into a powerful, perfect Super-Soldier, Erskine was killed by a Nazi operative, causing the secrets of the program to be lost forever. After months of intensive training, Rogers adopted the role and shield of **Captain America**, quickly becoming the Sentinel of Liberty. Not long after, experiments with rare metals resulted in a nearly indestructible circular shield that proved equally impossible to duplicate. Captain America quickly joined the fight against Nazi forces during World War II.


EVERYTHING IS SPINNING AROUND! I FEEL LIKE I'M BLACKING OUT BUT I MUST HANG ON!
IT'S WORKING! DON'T GIVE UP, SON! HOLD ON! THIS IS THE MOMENT OF CRISIS YOU MUST SURVIVE IT!
I-- I CAN FEEL POWER SURGING THROUGH ME! MY BODY'S GETTING LARGER STRONGER!
T'S AS IF MILLIONS OF CELLS WERE FORMING AT INCREDIBLE SPEED!
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES--I'VE ACTUALLY BECOME A NEW MAN!

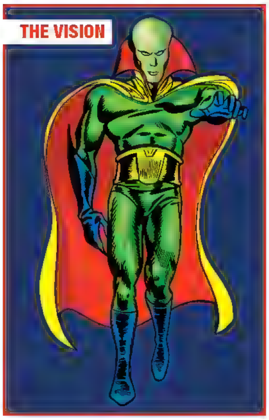

THAT COSTUME! THAT FACE MASK! NOW I SEE IT! HOLY SMOKE, IT CAN'T BE!
IT'S YOU! YOU'RE CAPTAIN AMERICA!

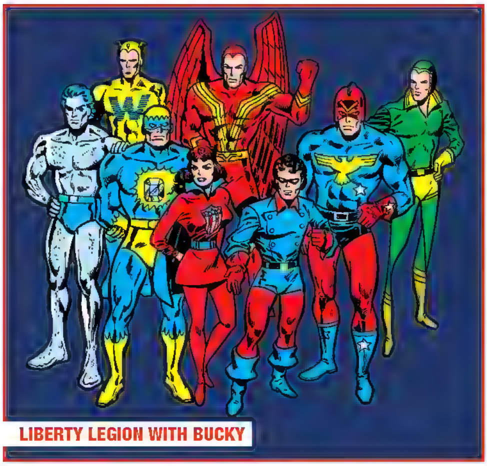
Orphan James Buchanan Barnes convinced officials to let him be a ward of the state at Camp Lehigh, eventually becoming the camp's mascot. In 1940, Barnes befriended Private Steve Rogers, eventually stumbling upon his secret identity as Captain America. Sworn to secrecy, Barnes soon adopted his own costumed identity of **Bucky** and accompanied Captain America on various missions. He also was given intense training to carry out assignments deemed too dark for Captain America's public persona.

Captain America and Bucky's origins are first told in ***Captain America Comics #1* (1941)**; further details are fleshed out in ***Captain America #109*** **(1969)**, ***Captain America #255*** **(1981)** and ***Tales of Suspense #63*** **(1965)**.

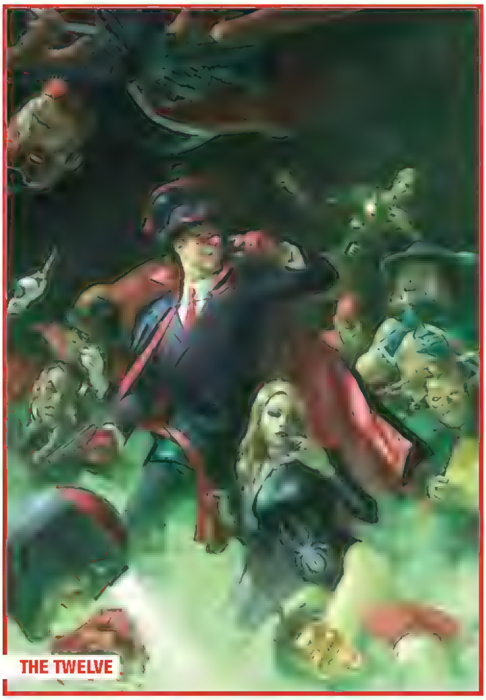

ATLANTIC OCEAN
NORTH SEA
FORTRESS EUROPA

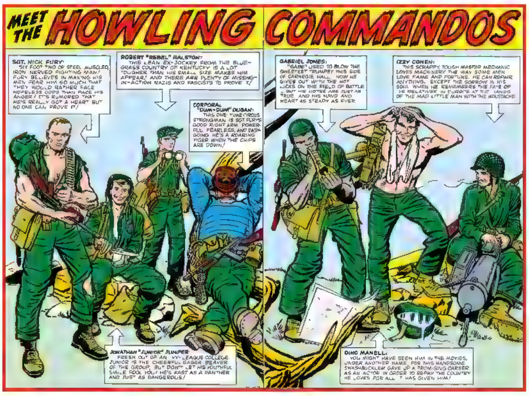
In late 1941, individual wartime missions brought together Captain America, Bucky, the Human Torch, Toro and Namor. After seeing them in action, U.K. Prime Minister Winston Churchill requested they stay together and act as the Allies' unofficial "invaders" of occupied Europe until Allied forces were ready to do so themselves. The **Invaders** operated throughout the war, adding later recruits Spitfire (Jacqueline Falsworth), Union Jack (Brian Falsworth) and others. The team's first gathering and naming by Churchill is recounted in ***Giant-Size Invaders #1*** **(1975)**.


THE VISION

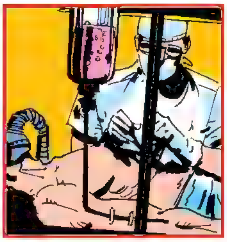

LIBERTY LEGION WITH BUCKY

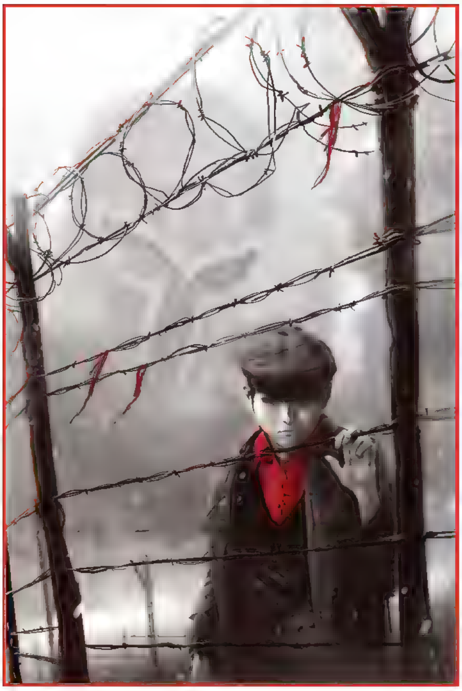
In the early 1940s, **superhumans began appearing with increasing frequency**. Among them was the immortal "keeper of law" Aarkus, who operated as the Vision from the Dimension of Smoke. The Liberty Legion, a group of American costumed heroes, protected the United States during World War II while the Invaders fought in Europe. A group of heroes who fought with Allied forces were captured by Nazis and put into suspended animation, then forgotten with the Third Reich's defeat until a construction crew revived them in modern times; they became known as the Twelve. Among the members of the Liberty Legion: Miss America, Thin Man, Whizzer, Red Raven, Blue Diamond and Jack Frost, Bucky, and the Patriot. ***Marvel Mystery Comics #13*** **(1940)** features the first appearance of the Vision, ***Marvel Premiere #29*** **(1976)** depicts the first gathering of the Liberty Legion (and recalls the origin of each member) and ***The Twelve #1-12*** **(2007-2012)** details how the title team came together.

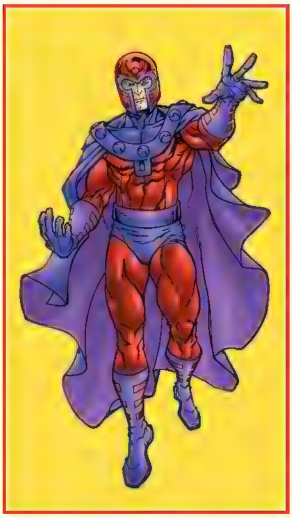

THE TWELVE


MEET THE HOWLING COMMANDOS
SGT. NICK FURY: SIX FOOT TWO OF STEEL MUSCLED, IRON NERVED FIGHTING MAN! FURY BELIEVES IN MAKING HIS MEN FEAR HIM SO MUCH THAT THEY WOULD RATHER FACE HOPELESS ODDS THAN FACE HIS ANGER! IT'S RUMORED THAT HE'S REALLY GOT A HEART BUT NO ONE CAN PROVE IT!
ROBERT "REBEL" RALSTON: THIS LEAN EX-JOCKEY FROM THE BLUE-GRASS COUNTRY OF KENTUCKY IS A LOT TOUGHER THAN HIS SMALL SIZE MAKES HIM APPEAR! AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF MISSING-IN-ACTION NAZIS AND FASCISTS TO PROVE IT!
CORPORAL "DUM-DUM" DUGAN: THIS ONE-TIME CIRCUS STRONGMAN IS SGT. FURY'S GOOD RIGHT ARM. POWERFUL, FEARLESS, AND EASY-GOING HE'S A ROARING TIGER WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN!
GABRIEL JONES: "GABE" USED TO BLOW THE SWEETEST TRUMPET THIS SIDE OF CARNEGIE HALL. NOW HE GIVES OUT WITH THE HOT LICKS ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE - BUT HIS NOTES ARE JUST AS TRUE, AND HIS HAND AND HEART AS STEADY AS EVER.
IZZY COHEN: THIS SCRAPPY, TOUGH MASTER MECHANIC LOVES MACHINERY THE WAY SOME MEN LOVE FAME AND FORTUNE. HE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. EXCEPT THE SORROW IN HIS SOUL WHEN HE REMEMBERS THE FATE OF HIS RELATIVES IN EUROPE AT THE HANDS OF THE MAD LITTLE MAN WITH THE MOUSTACHE
JONATHAN "JUNIOR" JUNIPER: FRESH OUT OF AN IVY-LEAGUE COLLEGE, JUNIOR IS THE CHEERFUL EAGER BEAVER OF THE GROUP, BUT DON'T LET HIS YOUTHFUL SMILE FOOL YOU! HE'S FAST AS A PANTHER AND JUST AS DANGEROUS!
DINO MANELLI: YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN HIM IN THE MOVIES, UNDER ANOTHER NAME, FOR THIS HANDSOME SWASHBUCKLER GAVE UP A PROMISING CAREER AS AN ACTOR IN ORDER TO REPAY THE COUNTRY HE LOVES FOR ALL IT HAS GIVEN HIM!

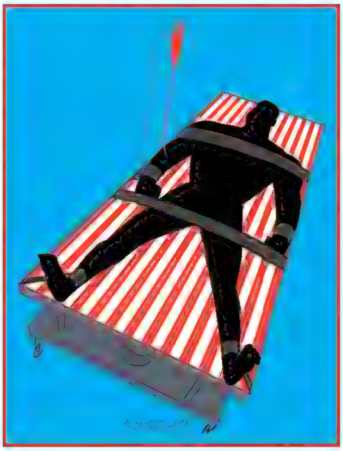
The **Howling Commandos** were a squadron of rangers formed in World War II who were also granted the rank of commando by Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Founding members included commanding officer Captain Sam "Happy" Sawyer, field leader Sergeant Nick Fury, Corporal Timothy "Dum Dum" Dugan, Isadore "Izzy" Cohen, Gabe Jones, Dino Manelli, Jonathan "Junior" Juniper and Robert "Reb" Ralston. Later recruited for the team was Percival "Pinky" Pinkerton, among others. The Howlers' most persistent enemy was Nazi Baron Wolfgang von Strucker and his Blitzkrieg Squad, a direct response to the Howling Commandos. During a mission in France, an injured Fury was the recipient of Professor Berthold Sternberg's Infinity Formula, a serum that would impede aging; throughout the war, the Commandos were exposed to Fury's blood, which increased their vitality into their advanced years. The origin of the team is told in ***Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #34*** **(1966)** and Fury's receipt of the Infinity Formula is detailed in ***Marvel Spotlight #31*** **(1976)**.





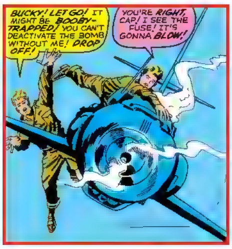


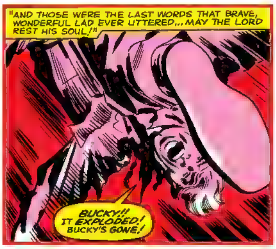
***X-Men: Magneto Testament #1-5* (2008)** tells the story of **Max Eisenhardt**, a Jewish boy who grew up in Germany during Hitler's rise to power. Eisenhardt survived his family's execution thanks to the subconscious use of his mutant power to control metal causing the bullets to miss him. After being captured, Eisenhardt was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp, where he spent the remainder of the war as a Sonderkommando, escaping just days before Soviets liberated the camp. Sometime later, Eisenhardt's use of his powers resulted in a human mob attacking him and preventing him from saving his daughter from a house fire, resulting in her death. Experiencing humanity's fear and hatred toward him as a mutant and a Jewish man began shaping his anger into a force the world would soon come to dread.

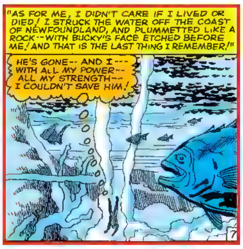


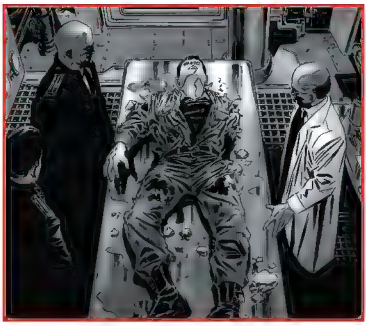
Isaiah Bradley enlisted in the U.S. Army after Pearl Harbor and was a member of two battalions of African-American soldiers who were used as test subjects in racist, unethical and horrific attempts to recreate Captain America. Only seven survived the initial process, and all but Bradley swiftly perished thereafter. Subsequently sent to Europe, Bradley eventually went rogue and stole a Captain America uniform to stop experiments Nazis were performing on Jewish captives; Bradley was subsequently captured and sent to Auschwitz. After being freed by German anti-Nazi resistance fighters, Bradley presumably fought Nazis for a time before being smuggled back to the Allies. Bradley was court-martialed for the uniform theft and sentenced to life in prison. After seventeen years of solitary confinement and improper medical treatment, the imperfect serum used to give him his powers left him brain-damaged. Years later, President Dwight D. Eisenhower pardoned Bradley. While not shown in-story, this series' depiction of Bradley fighting the Nazi Super-Soldier Master Man presumably took place after Auschwitz but before his return to the Allies. ***Truth: Red, White & Black #1-7* (2003)**.

In 1945, while striving to prevent Nazi scientist Baron Heinrich Zemo from obtaining an experimental drone, Captain America and Bucky were flung into the ocean when the plane exploded. **Captain America entered suspended animation** thanks to the Super-Soldier Serum and eventually was frozen alive; Allied forces believed both Cap and Bucky killed. ***Avengers #4* (1964)**.

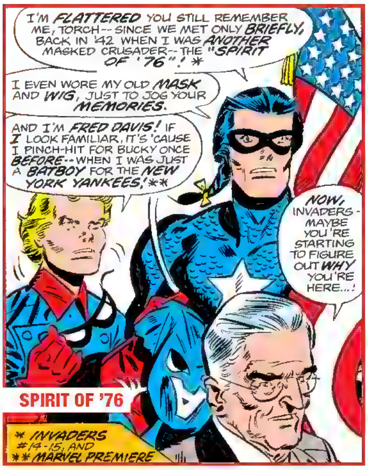

BUCKY! LET GO! IT MIGHT BE BOOBY-TRAPPED! YOU CAN'T DEACTIVATE THE BOMB WITHOUT ME! DROP OFF!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CAP! I SEE THE FUSE! IT'S GONNA BLOW!


"AND THOSE WERE THE LAST WORDS THAT BRAVE, WONDERFUL LAD EVER UTTERED... MAY THE LORD REST HIS SOUL!"
BUCKY!! IT EXPLODED! BUCKY'S GONE!

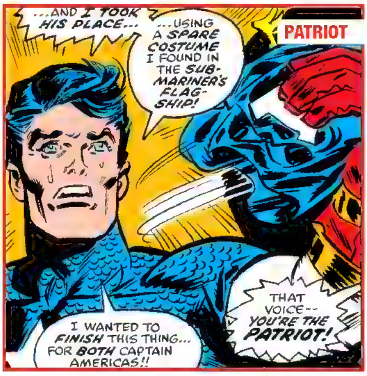

"AS FOR ME, I DIDN'T CARE IF I LIVED OR DIED! I STRUCK THE WATER OFF THE COAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND, AND PLUMMETTED LIKE A ROCK--WITH BUCKY'S FACE ETCHED BEFORE ME! AND THAT IS THE LAST THING I REMEMBER!"
HE'S GONE-- AND I--- WITH ALL MY POWER-- ALL MY STRENGTH-- I COULDN'T SAVE HIM!
7



However, **Bucky was found by Russians**, his body preserved by the freezing waters. Though clinically dead, Bucky was revived, but his left arm had been lost in the plane's explosion and he was brain-damaged and amnesiac. Learning Bucky did not have the coveted Super-Soldier Serum in his blood, the Russians put Bucky into suspended animation, where he remained for years. ***Captain America #8* (2004)** reveals how Bucky survived death and came into the Russians' possession.

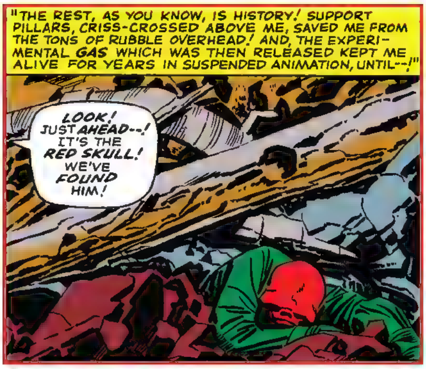

I'M FLATTERED YOU STILL REMEMBER ME, TORCH-- SINCE WE MET ONLY BRIEFLY, BACK IN '42 WHEN I WAS ANOTHER MASKED CRUSADER-- THE "SPIRIT OF '76"! *
I EVEN WORE MY OLD MASK AND WIG, JUST TO JOG YOUR MEMORIES.
AND I'M FRED DAVIS! IF I LOOK FAMILIAR, IT'S 'CAUSE I PINCH-HIT FOR BUCKY ONCE BEFORE-- WHEN I WAS JUST A BATBOY FOR THE NEW YORK YANKEES! **
NOW, INVADERS - MAYBE YOU'RE STARTING TO FIGURE OUT WHY YOU'RE HERE...!
* INVADERS #14-15, AND
** MARVEL PREMIERE

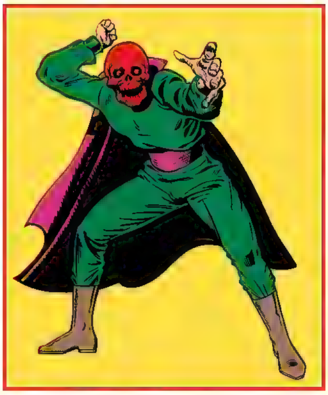
SPIRIT OF '76


...AND I TOOK HIS PLACE...
...USING A SPARE COSTUME I FOUND IN THE SUB-MARINER'S FLAG-SHIP!
I WANTED TO FINISH THIS THING... FOR BOTH CAPTAIN AMERICAS!!
THAT VOICE-- YOU'RE THE PATRIOT!

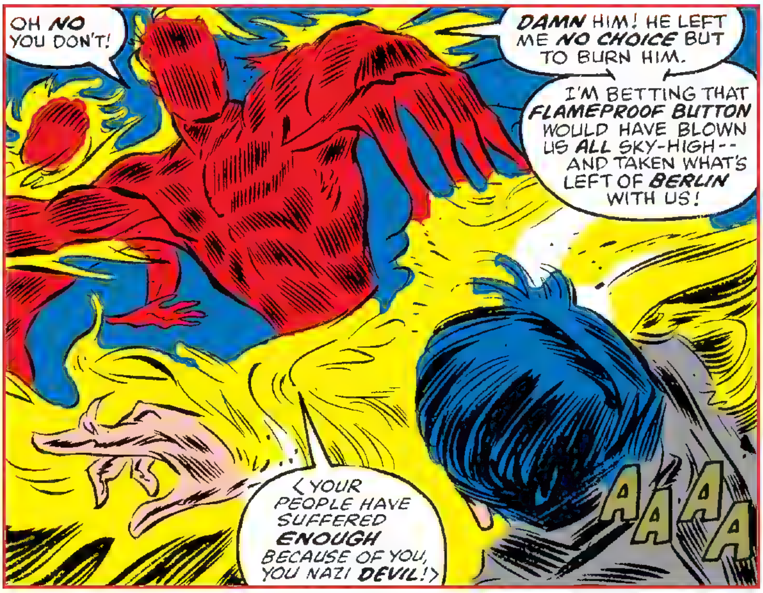
PATRIOT

Following the "death" of Captain America and Bucky, President Harry Truman appointed William Nasland, the costumed hero known as the **Spirit of '76, as a replacement Captain America** within the ranks of the Invaders; he also ordered young Fred Davis to serve as Bucky. Nasland served in the role until he was killed in 1946 while saving congressional candidate John F. Kennedy from assassination. After finding Nasland dead, fellow hero Jeffrey Mace, the **Patriot, assumed the Captain America identity** to complete Nasland's mission and carry on the Captain's legacy until he retired a few years later. The tale of the first two Captain America replacements is told in ***What If? #4* (1977)**.

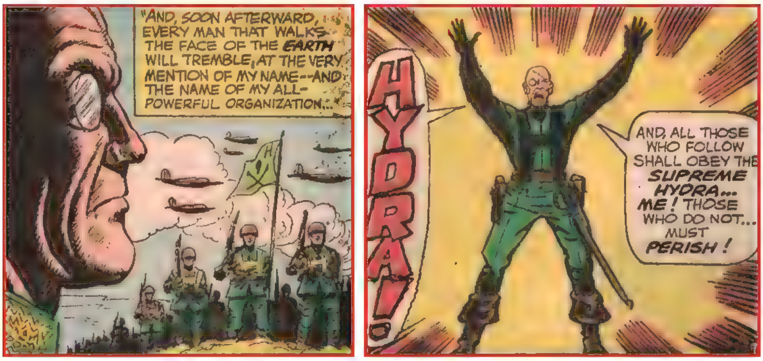

"THE REST, AS YOU KNOW, IS HISTORY! SUPPORT PILLARS, CRISS-CROSSED ABOVE ME, SAVED ME FROM THE TONS OF RUBBLE OVERHEAD! AND, THE EXPERIMENTAL GAS WHICH WAS THEN RELEASED KEPT ME ALIVE FOR YEARS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION, UNTIL--!"
LOOK! JUST AHEAD--! IT'S THE RED SKULL! WE'VE FOUND HIM!



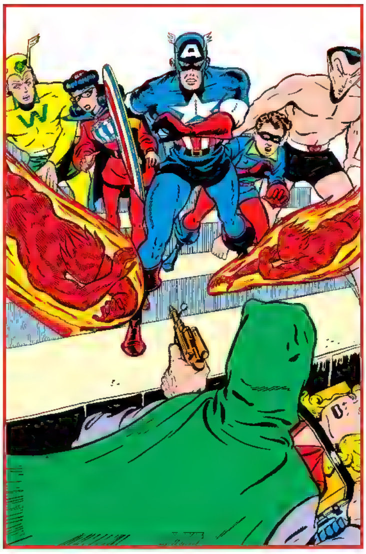
A number of years after the Red Skull was unexpectedly cast into suspended animation toward the end of World War II, communist **Albert Malik assumed the Red Skull identity** under orders from the Soviet government in hopes of taking advantage of the original's feared reputation. As the Skull, Malik would embark on a criminal career that supported communist goals and ideals. The original Red Skull's journey into suspended animation can be found in ***Tales of Suspense #79* (1966)**, while Malik's impersonation of his identity is summarized in ***Captain America Annual #13* (1994)**.


OH NO YOU DON'T!
DAMN HIM! HE LEFT ME NO CHOICE BUT TO BURN HIM.
I'M BETTING THAT FLAMEPROOF BUTTON WOULD HAVE BLOWN US ALL SKY-HIGH-- AND TAKEN WHAT'S LEFT OF BERLIN WITH US!
<YOUR PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH BECAUSE OF YOU, YOU NAZI DEVIL!>
AAAA

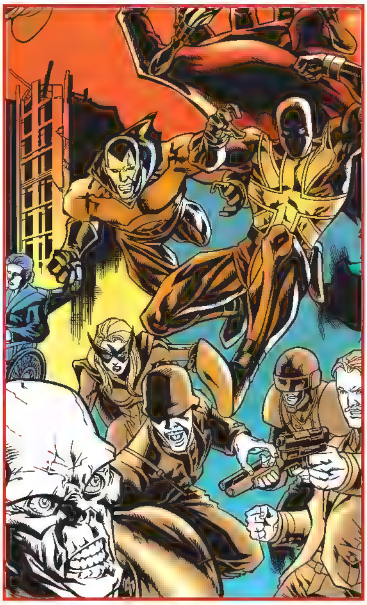
On April 25, 1945, the Human Torch and Toro joined Allied forces in an invasion of Berlin. A few days later they found Adolf Hitler hiding in a bunker, preparing to detonate explosives. The **Human Torch executed Hitler** to prevent his last threat from being realized. ***What If? #4* (1977)**.


"AND, SOON AFTERWARD, EVERY MAN THAT WALKS THE FACE OF THE EARTH WILL TREMBLE AT THE VERY MENTION OF MY NAME--AND THE NAME OF MY ALL-POWERFUL ORGANIZATION..."
HYDRA!
AND ALL THOSE WHO FOLLOW SHALL OBEY THE SUPREME HYDRA... ME! THOSE WHO DO NOT... MUST PERISH!

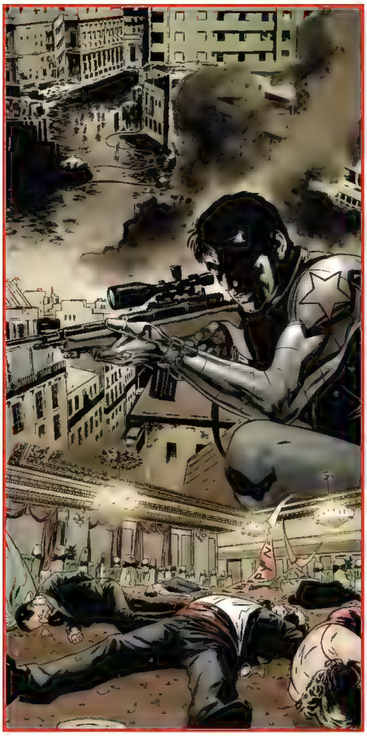
A top Nazi operative who fell out of Hitler's favor due to repeated failures, Baron Wolfgang von Strucker's death was ordered by the Führer. Strucker escaped Germany and, after foreseeing Hitler's fall, began building a power base for himself. After joining forces with the Hand, **Strucker helped form Hydra** from underground subversive movements. Through murder and deception, Strucker quickly assumed command of the organization and severed ties with the Hand due to their worship of the demon Beast, then helped shape Hydra into a world-threatening organization. Hydra's formation is chronicled in ***Captain Savage and His Leatherneck Raiders #2-4* (1968)**.



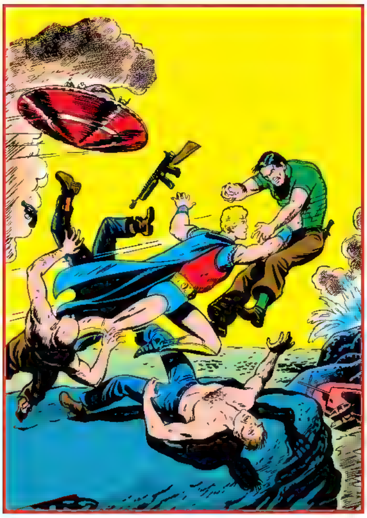
After the war's end, a number of Invaders members returned to America and formed the **All-Winners Squad** in 1946. Both William Nasland and Jeff Mace served on the team as Captain America, as did the Fred Davis Bucky. Only a handful of the Squad's exploits have been recorded, but it is known they remained together until the late 1940s. Pictured in this series is the group, as the Invaders, battling the Nazi Warrior Woman sometime in 1945 before returning to America in '46. An early mission of the team can be found in ***All-Winners Comics #19* (1946)**, while ***What If? #4* (1977)** tells another.



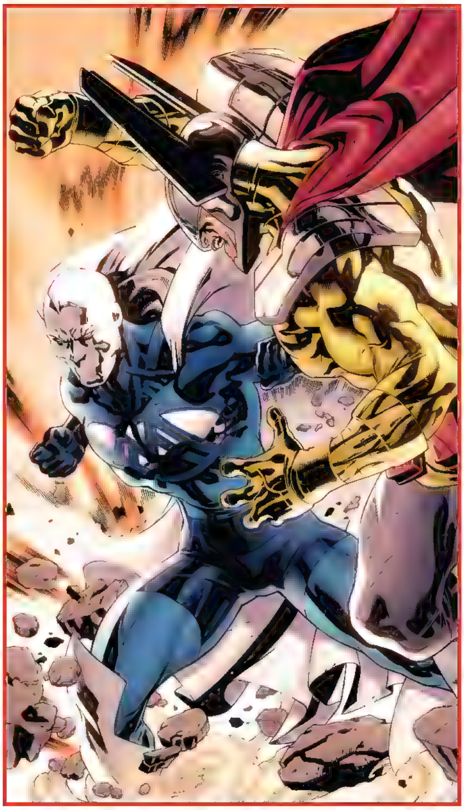
After the end of World War II, a group of European heroes, including Spitfire, Union Jack and the Destroyer (Roger Aubrey), helped form an organization that would hunt Nazi war criminals and prevent future despots from coming to power. Others soon joined, and a covert revival of the **V-Battalion**—a French/English wartime Nazi resistance force—was soon underway. ***Citizen V and the V-Battalion #1-3* (2001)** and ***Citizen V and the V-Battalion: Everlasting #1-3* (2002)**.

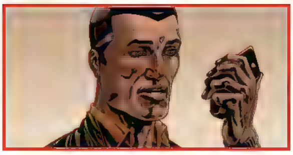


By the mid-1950s, Bucky's left arm had been replaced with a cybernetic arm, and mental implants helped transform him into the perfect operative. As the **Winter Soldier**, he was sent around the world to carry out assassinations, while being placed in stasis between missions. ***Captain America #11* (2005)** details his continued manipulation by the Soviets.

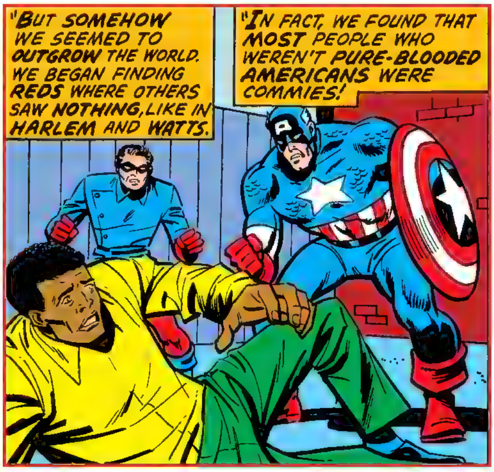


***Marvel Boy #1* (1950)** tells the tale of Robert Grayson, a young infant who was taken to Uranus by his scientist father, who was looking to avoid World War II. They were welcomed by a settlement of Eternals, who had established a community there 30,000 years prior. By 1950, Grayson had honed his mental abilities. Grayson's father then sent him back to Earth to help prevent further war. Grayson was outfitted with Uranian weapons and technology and used them as the superheroic **Marvel Boy** for much of the decade. ***Marvel Boy: The Uranian #1-3* (2010)** expands Grayson's origin story.

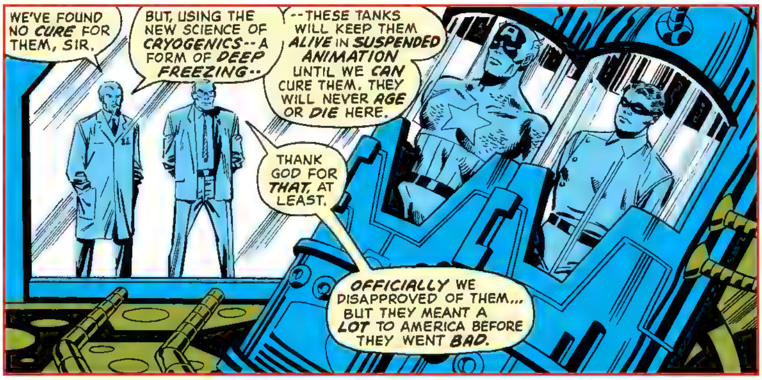


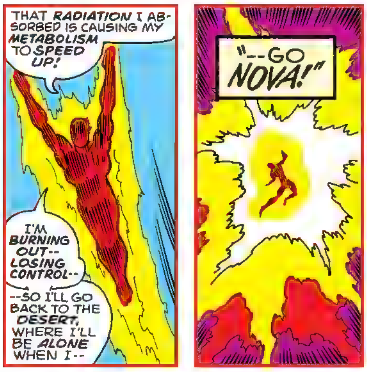


After serving as a marine during the Korean War, Adam Brashear completed his Ivy League studies and was contracted by the government to build a reactor that could convert antimatter to energy. Brashear was saved from a laboratory accident by his friend and fellow veteran Conner Sims, but the accident left both men infused with antimatter. Brashear became the **Blue Marvel**, a celebrated hero, while Sims became the deranged **Anti-Man** and frequently used deadly force in trying to rid Earth of prejudice. When the public learned Blue Marvel was a black man, the government asked him to step down to prevent widespread revolt in American society, which was already battling over segregation and civil rights. Brashear would reluctantly become the Blue Marvel again in modern times. ***Adam: Legend of the Blue Marvel #1-5* (2008)**.

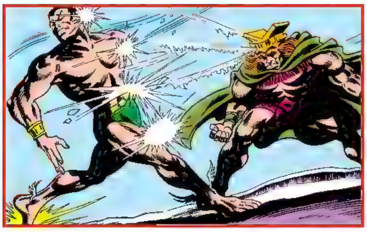

"BUT SOMEHOW WE SEEMED TO OUTGROW THE WORLD. WE BEGAN FINDING REDS WHERE OTHERS SAW NOTHING, LIKE IN HARLEM AND WATTS.
"IN FACT, WE FOUND THAT MOST PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T PURE-BLOODED AMERICANS WERE COMMIES!

In 1953 Captain America scholar William Burnside traveled to Germany for research and found a journal with partial details of the Super-Soldier Serum that transformed Steve Rogers into Captain America. After changing his name to Steve Rogers and using plastic surgery to become Rogers' duplicate, he used the serum on himself and fellow Captain America fan, Jack Monroe. The duo then became **the next replacement Captain America and Bucky**. However, because the serum was incomplete, the two gradually became insane, their anti-communist beliefs developing into paranoid racism. When "Rogers" and Monroe refused to undergo treatment for their madness in late 1955, the U.S government captured them and put them into suspended animation. The two were forgotten until recent times—Monroe was eventually cured and released (becoming the hero Nomad), but "Rogers" became further demented and became the fascist Grand Director and later a terrorist within the Watchdogs organization. The duo's transformation into Cap and Bucky is recorded in ***Captain America #155* (1972)**.

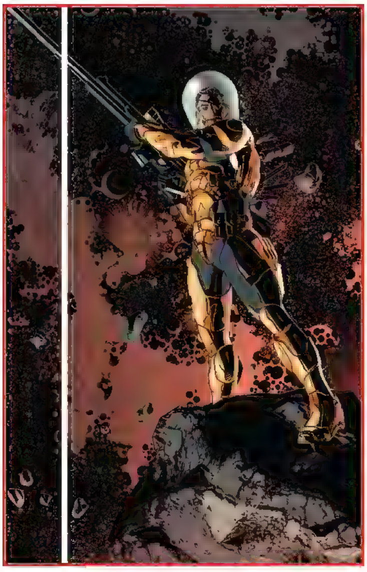

WE'VE FOUND NO CURE FOR THEM, SIR.
BUT, USING THE NEW SCIENCE OF CRYOGENICS--A FORM OF DEEP FREEZING--
--THESE TANKS WILL KEEP THEM ALIVE IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION UNTIL WE CAN CURE THEM. THEY WILL NEVER AGE OR DIE HERE.
THANK GOD FOR THAT, AT LEAST.
OFFICIALLY WE DISAPPROVED OF THEM... BUT THEY MEANT A LOT TO AMERICA BEFORE THEY WENT BAD.


THAT RADIATION I ABSORBED IS CAUSING MY METABOLISM TO SPEED UP!
I'M BURNING OUT-- LOSING CONTROL--
--SO I'LL GO BACK TO THE DESERT, WHERE I'LL BE ALONE WHEN I--
"--GO NOVA!"

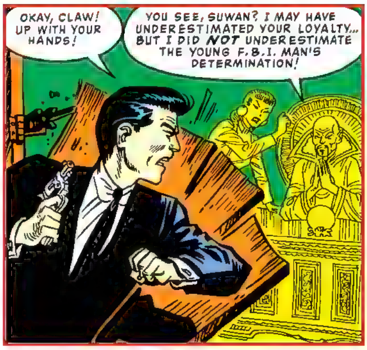
After being exposed to an atomic bomb test in 1953, **the Human Torch's powers began flaring out of control**. In late 1955, fearing he would endanger others, the Torch burned his way underground and deactivated himself, as told in the ***Saga of Original Human Torch #4* (1990)**.



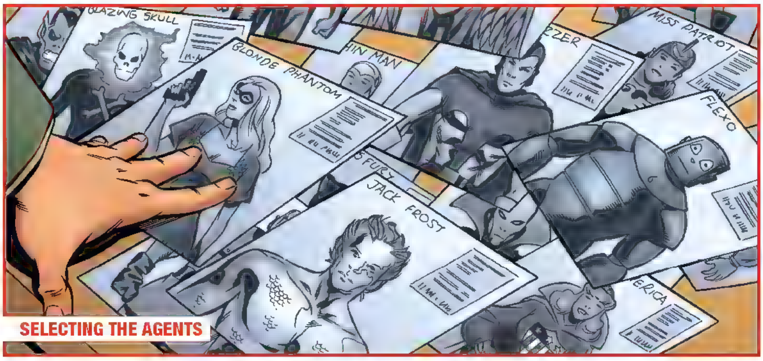
In 1958, megalomaniac Destiny (Paul Destine) attacked Atlantis to test his powers. In the resulting confrontation, Destiny imposed amnesia on Namor and destroyed Atlantis. Namor was left to wander New York City for years as a homeless derelict. ***Saga of the Sub-Mariner #6* (1988)** and ***Sub-Mariner #1* (1968)** detail Namor's confrontation with Destiny.



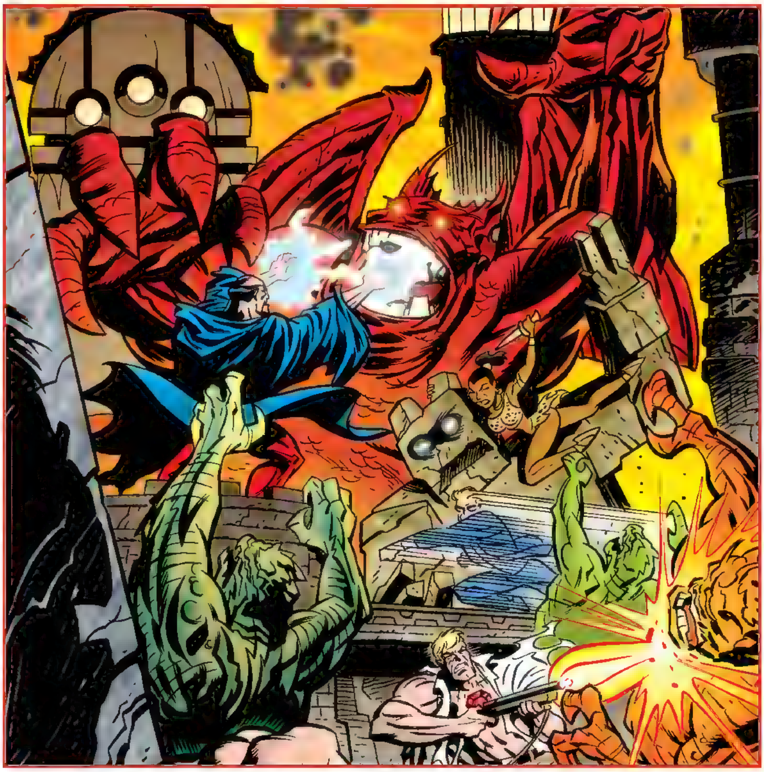
After Man on the Wall Woodrow McCord was killed in 1958 while preventing an extraterrestrial Tribellian invasion of Earth, Nick Fury took the position. By 1968, Fury was using Life-Model Decoys to represent him in multiple places to secretly protect Earth from those who would prey on the planet. ***Original Sin #5* (2014)** and ***Original Sin Annual #1* (2014)** hold the details.


OKAY, CLAW! UP WITH YOUR HANDS!
YOU SEE, SUWAN? I MAY HAVE UNDERESTIMATED YOUR LOYALTY... BUT I DID NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE YOUNG F.B.I. MAN'S DETERMINATION!

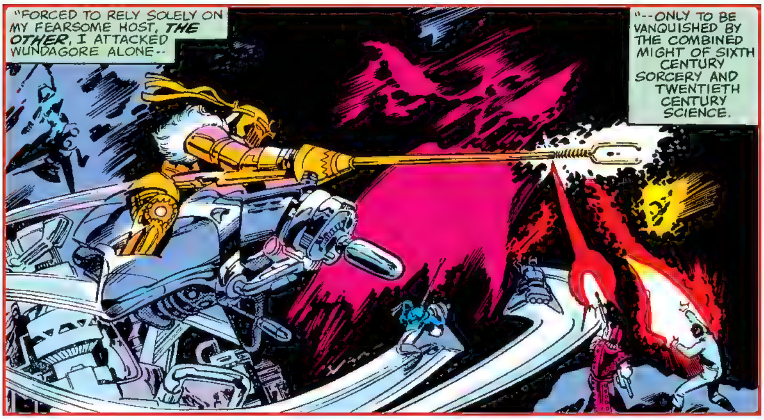
Plan Chu (the Golden Claw) chose newborn **Jimmy Woo** to succeed him as head of the Atlas Foundation, a secret organization continuing the empire of Genghis Khan. Woo's parents fled with him to thwart the Claw's plan and pushed Woo to pursue a career in law enforcement. Woo became an FBI agent by the 1950s, bringing him into a series of confrontations with the Claw who was making moves against the United States. In 1958 **Woo assembled the G-Men**, a superhuman team, to help him rescue President Dwight D. Eisenhower from the Claw. Woo chose the Gorilla-Man (Ken Hale), Marvel Boy (Bob Grayson), Venus (a siren posing as the Olympian goddess) and the cousin of the Atlantean Namor, Namora. Namora refused to join but led them to the Human Robot (M-11). After rescuing the president, the G-Men remained together for six months until the government ordered them to disband, believing the public was not ready for a superhuman group. Years later, Namora would officially join the team when they reassembled in modern times as the Agents of Atlas. Woo's struggles against the Claw are detailed in ***Yellow Claw #1-4* (1956-1957)** and the gatherings of the G-Men/Agents of Atlas are told in ***Agents of Atlas #1-6* (2006)**.


BLAZING SKULL
BLONDE PHANTOM
MISS PATRIOT
FLEXO
JACK FROST

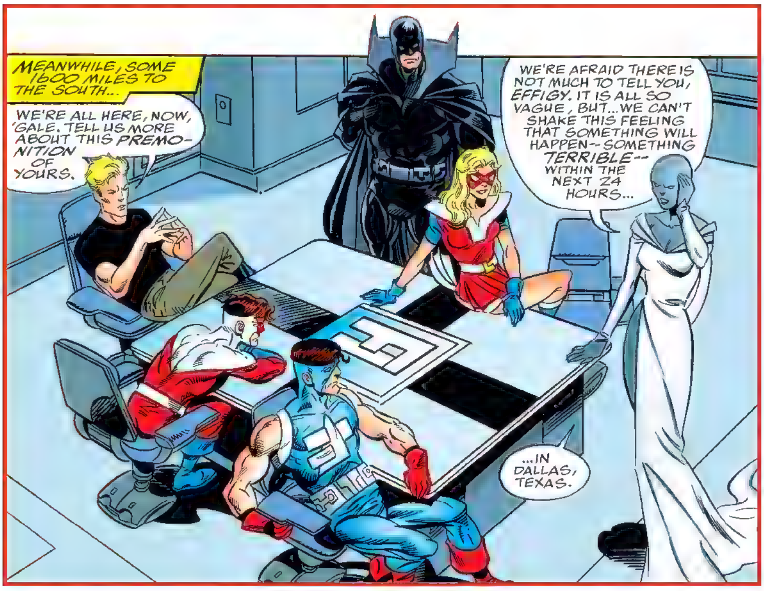
SELECTING THE AGENTS



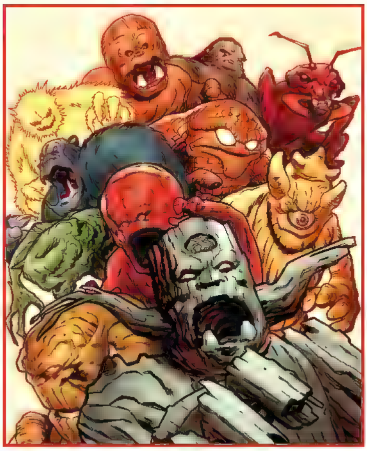
To help curb the threat to humanity posed by monstrous creatures such as Gorgilla and Gigantus, a number of superhumans gathered as the **Monster Hunters**: the immortal Ulysses Bloodstone, Doctor Druid, the Eternal Makkari, the Wakandan Zawadi and the Atlantean Namora all served on the team. The team operated out of the Explorers Club in New York City, and their exploits were recorded by Stanley Hathaway. The group's story was told in ***Marvel: The Lost Generation #2* (2001)** and ***Marvel Universe #4-7* (1998)**.


"FORCED TO RELY SOLELY ON MY FEARSOME HOST, *THE OTHER*, I ATTACKED WUNDAGORE ALONE--
"--ONLY TO BE VANQUISHED BY THE COMBINED MIGHT OF SIXTH CENTURY SORCERY AND TWENTIETH CENTURY SCIENCE.

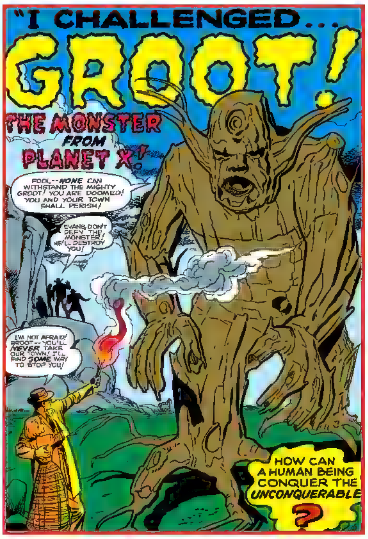
As detailed in ***Avengers #186-187* (1979)** and the second story in ***X-Men Annual #12* (1988)**, Gregor Russoff used the Darkhold in 1958, hoping the demon Chthon could free him from the curse of being a werewolf. Instead of curing himself, Russoff freed the demon from his imprisonment within Wundagore Mountain, where the High Evolutionary had built his Citadel of Science and laboratories. When **Chthon attacked Wundagore**, the High Evolutionary and his Knights of Wundagore (members of his New Men whom he had knighted) were able to drive the demon back with the help of the spirit of sixth-century sorcerer Magnus. However, Chthon was able to kill Russoff as well as magically mark an infant born in the Citadel that night under the care of New Man Bova. Chthon hoped the infant, Wanda Maximoff, would later serve as another access to Earth.

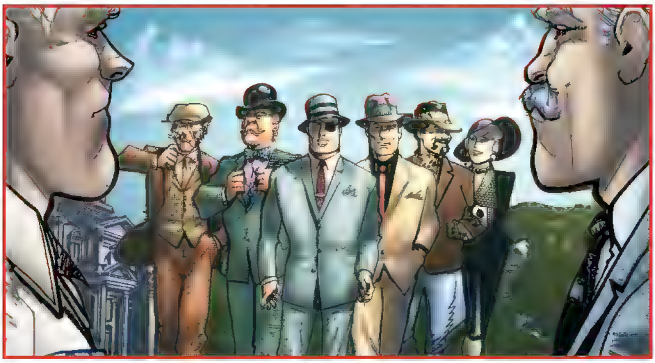

MEANWHILE, SOME 1600 MILES TO THE SOUTH...
WE'RE ALL HERE, NOW, 'GALE. TELL US MORE ABOUT THIS *PREMONITION* OF YOURS.
WE'RE AFRAID THERE IS NOT MUCH TO TELL YOU, *EFFIGY*. IT IS ALL SO VAGUE, BUT...WE CAN'T SHAKE THIS FEELING THAT SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN--SOMETHING *TERRIBLE*-- WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS...
...IN DALLAS, TEXAS.

A group of costumed heroes banded together in 1958 to form the First Line, intending to be a defense for humanity from those who would harm them. Various versions of the team would come and go over the years, drawing members from superhumans of their time, but nearly all the members were killed while preventing a Skrull invasion of Earth. The battle resulted in the elimination of an entire generation of Earth's super-beings. Among the team's early members are Yankee Clipper, Black Fox, Nightingale and Liberty Girl. First Line's origins can be found in ***Marvel: The Lost Generation #2-4* (2000-2001)**.

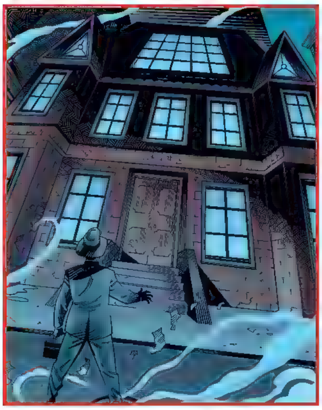


Countless **monsters began appearing around the globe** in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Their rampages threatened many lives. Among these monsters were such colorfully named creatures as Googam, Fin Fang Foom, Gargantus, Orrgo, Spragg and Xemnu. **Groot** was a member of Planet X's sentient, treelike species, who was vilified among his people for fighting for the social rights of lesser beings of his planet. In 1960, the immature and impulsive Groot visited Earth and attempted to kidnap humans for study on Planet X, but he was defeated by specially bred termites created by biologist Leslie Evans. A selection of this era's monster tales can be experienced in two volumes of ***Monsters: The Marvel Monsterbus by Stan Lee, Larry Lieber & Jack Kirby***. ***Tales to Astonish #13* (1960)** featured Groot's first appearance.

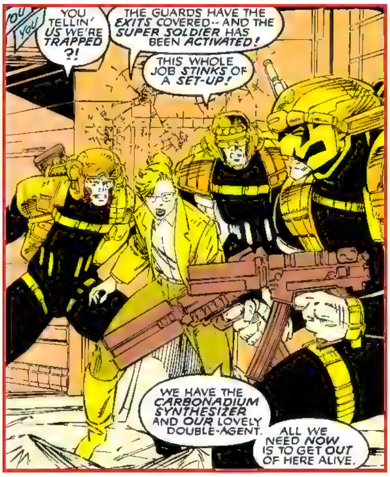

"I CHALLENGED...
GROOT!
THE MONSTER FROM PLANET X!"
FOOL--*NONE* CAN WITHSTAND THE MIGHTY GROOT! YOU ARE DOOMED! YOU AND YOUR TOWN SHALL PERISH!
EVANS, DON'T DEFY THE MONSTER! HE'LL DESTROY YOU!
I'M NOT AFRAID! GROOT--YOU'LL *NEVER* TAKE OUR TOWN! I'LL FIND *SOME* WAY TO STOP YOU!
HOW CAN A HUMAN BEING CONQUER THE *UNCONQUERABLE*?



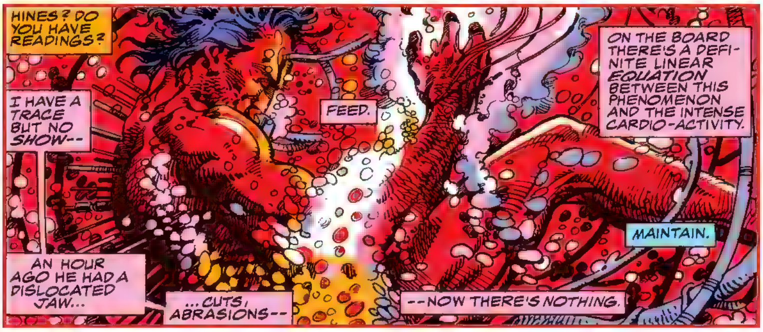
When the U.S. government learned of a project attempting to re-create Captain America and the Infinity Formula that had prolonged Nick Fury's life, the U.S. president ordered Fury to assemble a team to stop the Nazi plans. Fury gathered his former Howling Commandos teammates Dum Dum Dugan and Gabe Jones, the mutant savage Sabretooth, Dominic Fortune, Namora, Russian big game hunter Kraven (Sergei Kravinoff), Ulysses Bloodstone and Nazi hunter Silver Sable (Ernst Sablinova). This group—dubbed the **Avengers Initiative**—was later joined by the Blonde Phantom and sorcerer Powell McTeague in opposing the dark plans of Icon, a deeply classified government project that worked with former Nazis to fight the Soviets and communism. These 1959 events are recounted in ***Avengers 1959 #1-5* (2011-2012)** and ***New Avengers #10-12* (2011)**.

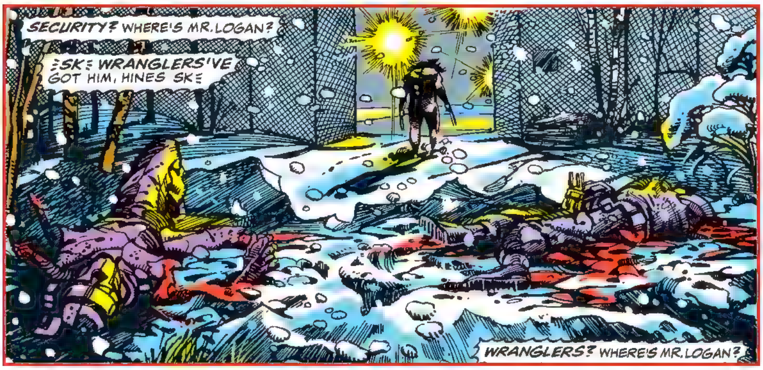


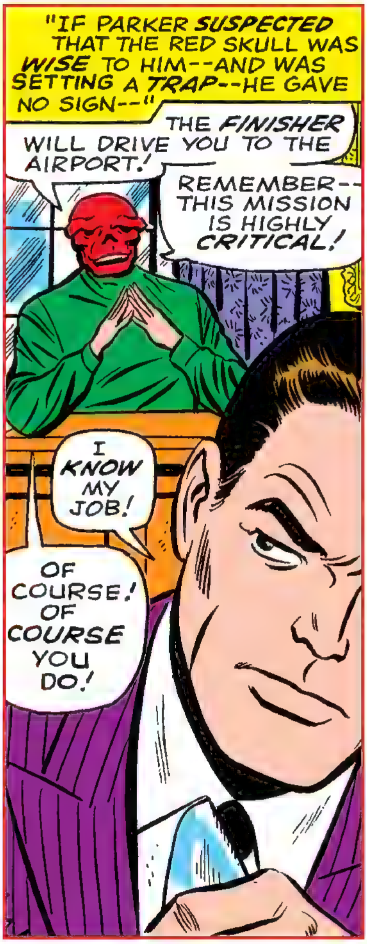
Egotistical surgeon Doctor Stephen Strange sought out the mystical Ancient One to heal his hands, which were ruined in a car accident. Despite the Ancient One turning down his request for healing, Strange ultimately offered himself as a disciple and vowed to learn magic to protect Earth from threats like the Ancient One's pupil Baron Mordo. Eventually becoming a master of the mystic arts, **Doctor Strange** relocated to New York City and purchased a building in Greenwich Village, which he turned into his **Sanctum Sanctorum**. Doctor Strange's origin is told in ***Strange Tales #115* (1963)**. His first time visiting and purchasing the house in Greenwich Village can be found in ***Doctor Strange: From the Marvel Vault #1* (2011)** and a tour of the Sanctum Sanctorum was given in ***Doctor Strange #2* (2016)**.


YOU TELLIN' US WE'RE TRAPPED ?!
THE GUARDS HAVE THE EXITS COVERED-- AND THE SUPER SOLDIER HAS BEEN ACTIVATED!
THIS WHOLE JOB STINKS OF A SET-UP!
WE HAVE THE CARBONADIUM SYNTHESIZER AND OUR LOVELY DOUBLE-AGENT.
ALL WE NEED NOW IS TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE.

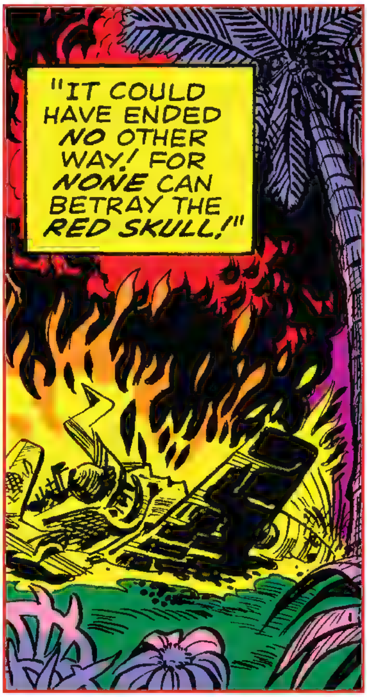
By 1961, James Howlett—going by Logan now—had gone down many paths in a life filled with tragedy and pain, including serving as a soldier and doing mercenary work, where his mutant healing factor, superhuman senses and bone claws served him well. That year, Logan joined the black ops **Team X** as Wolverine, undertaking missions for the C.I.A. and the Weapon X (A.K.A. Weapon Ten) Program, which was the tenth descendant of the Weapon Plus Program that created Captain America. As a member of the team, Logan was often subjected to memory implants and telepathically manipulated, frequently leaving his mind fragmented and confused. Logan served on Team X until late 1968. At some point, Logan was captured by the Weapon X Program, which had begun using mutants as tools more than operatives, and he was subjected to invasive, incredibly painful procedures to turn him into a living weapon capable of killing anything, including superhumans. Logan was only able to survive due to his healing factor. The process left Logan with Adamantium metal fused to his bones and claws, making them unbreakable. His claws could now cut through almost any substance. After being subjected to more implanted memories and brainwashing, Logan was left in a near-mindless state. However, at some point, Logan went into a berserker fury and broke free, slaughtering the staff and crew at the Weapon X facility then fleeing into the Canadian wilderness, where he lived in a feral state for months. Team X is given coverage in ***Wolverine Origins #8* (2007)** and ***X-Men #5-7* (1992)**, and the horrific experiments Logan endured at the hands of Weapon X are detailed in ***Marvel Comics Presents #72-84* (1991)**.

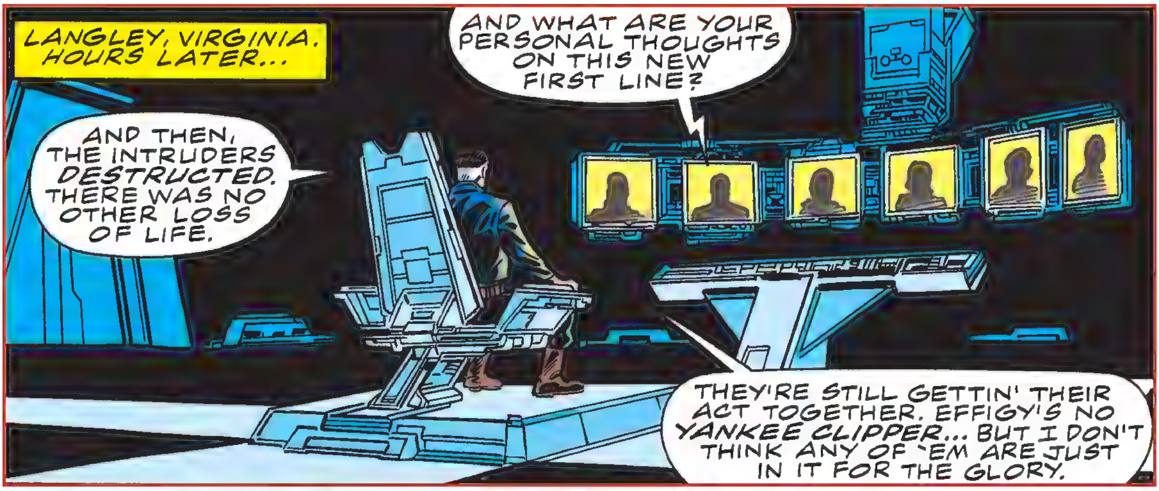

HINES? DO YOU HAVE READINGS?
I HAVE A TRACE BUT NO SHOW--
FEED.
ON THE BOARD THERE'S A DEFINITE LINEAR EQUATION BETWEEN THIS PHENOMENON AND THE INTENSE CARDIO-ACTIVITY.
MAINTAIN.
AN HOUR AGO HE HAD A DISLOCATED JAW...
...CUTS, ABRASIONS--
--NOW THERE'S NOTHING.

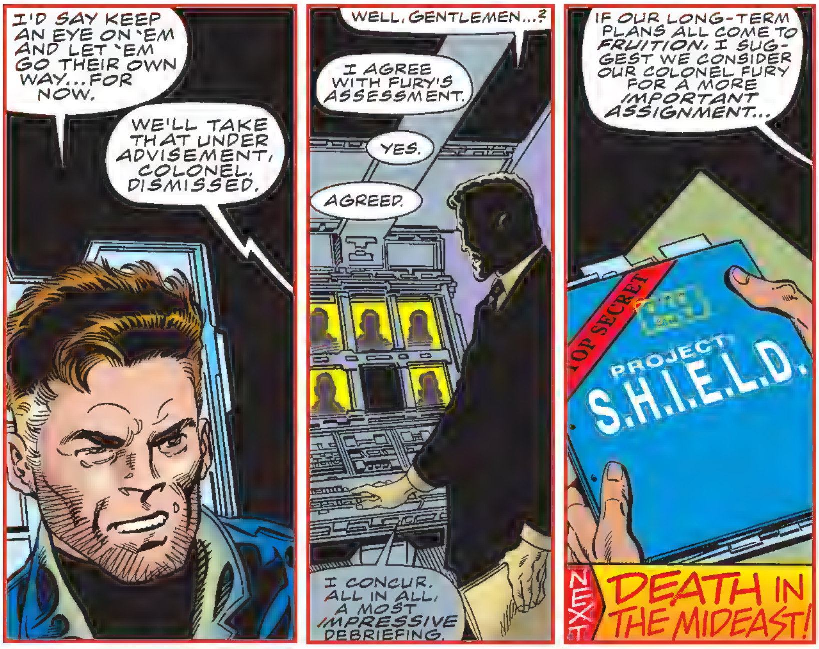

SECURITY? WHERE'S MR. LOGAN?
SK WRANGLERS'VE GOT HIM, HINES SK
WRANGLERS? WHERE'S MR. LOGAN?


"IF PARKER SUSPECTED THAT THE RED SKULL WAS WISE TO HIM--AND WAS SETTING A TRAP--HE GAVE NO SIGN--"
THE FINISHER WILL DRIVE YOU TO THE AIRPORT!
REMEMBER-- THIS MISSION IS HIGHLY CRITICAL!
I KNOW MY JOB!
OF COURSE! OF COURSE YOU DO!

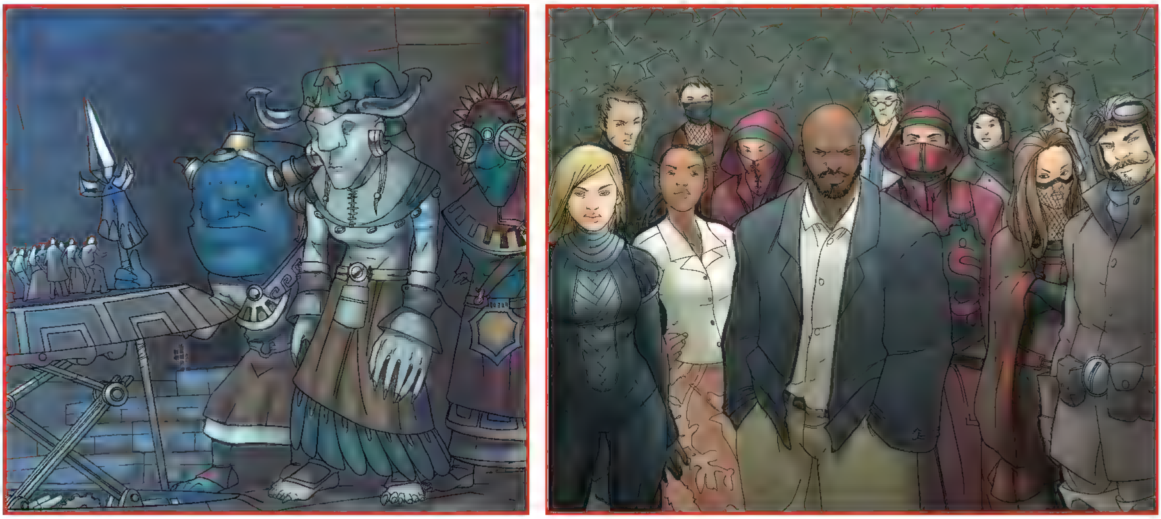
When Red Skull (Albert Malik) learned that two operatives in his criminal organization were actually C.I.A. agents Richard and Mary Parker, he had an assassin kill them through a plane crash and frame them for defection. The Parkers were survived by an infant son, Peter. ***Amazing Spider-Man Annual #5* (1968)**.


"IT COULD HAVE ENDED NO OTHER WAY! FOR NONE CAN BETRAY THE RED SKULL!"

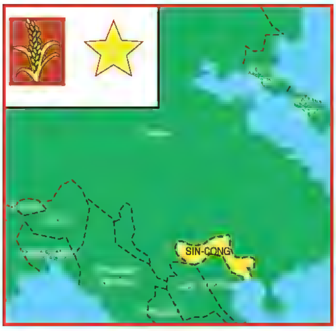

LANGLEY, VIRGINIA. HOURS LATER...
AND WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON THIS NEW FIRST LINE?
AND THEN, THE INTRUDERS DESTRUCTED. THERE WAS NO OTHER LOSS OF LIFE.
THEY'RE STILL GETTIN' THEIR ACT TOGETHER. EFFIGY'S NO YANKEE CLIPPER... BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF 'EM ARE JUST IN IT FOR THE GLORY.

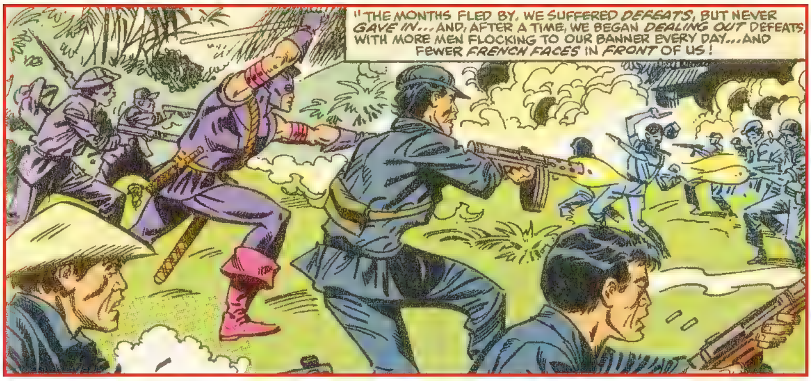

I'D SAY KEEP AN EYE ON 'EM AND LET 'EM GO THEIR OWN WAY...FOR NOW.
WE'LL TAKE THAT UNDER ADVISEMENT, COLONEL. DISMISSED.
WELL, GENTLEMEN...?
I AGREE WITH FURY'S ASSESSMENT.
YES.
AGREED.
I CONCUR. ALL IN ALL, A MOST IMPRESSIVE DEBRIEFING.
IF OUR LONG-TERM PLANS ALL COME TO FRUITION, I SUGGEST WE CONSIDER OUR COLONEL FURY FOR A MORE IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT...
TOP SECRET
PROJECT S.H.I.E.L.D.
NEXT
DEATH IN THE MIDEAST!

Nick Fury's work as a C.I.A. operative garnered the attention of a group of government officials who were in the process of creating **Project: S.H.I.E.L.D.** (Supreme Headquarters International Espionage Law-Enforcement Division), the precursor to a top-secret organization they intended to secure Earth from any terroristic, tyrannical or criminal threats. Project: S.H.I.E.L.D., later just S.H.I.E.L.D., was supported by countless businesspeople and politicians around the globe, quickly becoming a vast international intelligence agency employing exotic and cutting edge technology largely supplied by industrialist and weapons manufacturer Howard Stark. Fury was offered—and accepted—the directorial position within the new organization, answering only to its executive council. It is unclear if the council was aware of his concurrent position as Man on the Wall. Fury's consideration for Project: S.H.I.E.L.D. is depicted in ***Marvel: The Lost Generation #10*** **(2000)**. S.H.I.E.L.D.'s first appearance (and Fury's first depiction with the organization) is in ***Strange Tales #135*** **(1965)**.

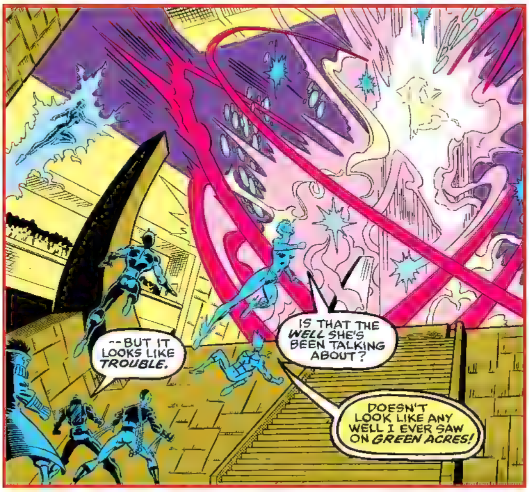


Wishing to return Earth to the state it was when they ruled it, the ancient beings called the Gibborim gathered a cabal of six criminal couples together and offered them a chance to rule Los Angeles in exchange for serving them. The Gibborim also offered to let six of them survive into the new paradise. This group, called **the Pride**, came to rule nearly the entire west coast of America through alliances with criminals and law enforcement and would sacrifice a young girl to the Gibborim annually. When one couple became pregnant, the other five couples agreed that the six survivors in the coming paradise should be one child from each couple. The Pride's origin is presented in ***Runaways #13*** **(2004)**.



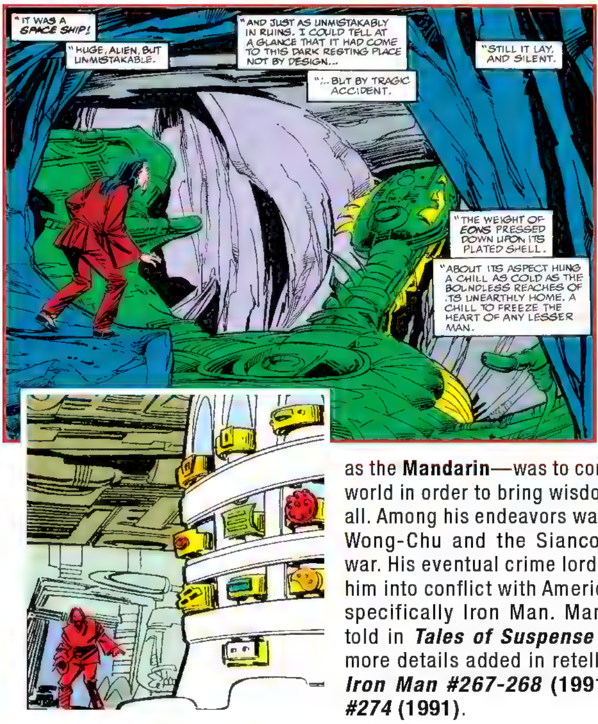

"THE MONTHS FLED BY. WE SUFFERED DEFEATS, BUT NEVER GAVE IN... AND, AFTER A TIME, WE BEGAN DEALING OUT DEFEATS, WITH MORE MEN FLOCKING TO OUR BANNER EVERY DAY... AND FEWER FRENCH FACES IN FRONT OF US!

Siancong (previously known as Sin-Cong) is a small Southeast Asian country that borders Vietnam. A French protectorate in the 1800s, independence was eventually won through a revolution spearheaded by future warlord Wong-Chu. Helping him was Jacques Duquesne, who would later become the Avenger called Swordsman. Siancong became communist ruled following their independence, and since then, it has been an unstable country in the region; the decades-long **Siancong Conflict** ultimately drew the involvement of nations and superhumans from around the world. Siancong first appeared in ***Avengers #18* (1965)**, and the revolution against France is shown in the second story in ***Avengers Spotlight #22* (1989)**. NOTE: To accommodate for the passage of time, some Marvel Universe references of character involvement in the Vietnam War have been retroactively refitted to be the Siancong Conflict; the Vietnam War remains a world event that took place from 1955-1977 in the Marvel Universe as well as it did in reality. Therefore, due to the retroactive continuity, some in-story presentations of Marvel characters in the Vietnam War should be considered a depiction of the Siancong Conflict.

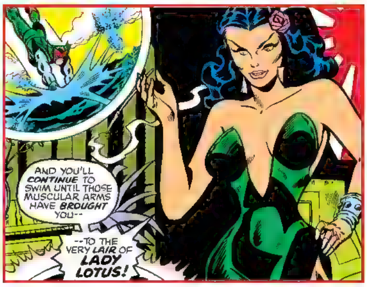

--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE.
IS THAT THE WELL SHE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT?
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY WELL I EVER SAW ON GREEN ACRES!

WE'RE FALLING!

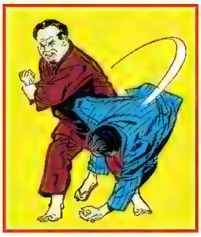
The Well of All Things was a portal that intersected multiple dimensions, subsequently releasing vast inter-dimensional energies; the well was housed in Cambodia's centuries-old hidden Temple of the Dragon's Breadth, built by a tribe that practiced selective breeding to someday harness the power of the well. While in the geographical area for the Siancong Conflict, a unit of American soldiers stumbled upon the temple and became involved in a plot created by tribal leader Tai, a plot that involved breeding between the soldiers and tribal women. Tai's plan would span decades and eventually result in children of power but was ultimately undone by Night Thrasher (Dwayne Taylor) and the New Warriors. The story of the Well of All Things can be found in ***New Warriors #18-25* (1991-1992)**.


"IT WAS A SPACE SHIP!
"HUGE, ALIEN, BUT UNMISTAKABLE.
"AND JUST AS UNMISTAKABLY IN RUINS. I COULD TELL AT A GLANCE THAT IT HAD COME TO THIS DARK RESTING PLACE NOT BY DESIGN...
"...BUT BY TRAGIC ACCIDENT.
"STILL IT LAY, AND SILENT.
"THE WEIGHT OF EONS PRESSED DOWN UPON ITS PLATED SHELL.
"ABOUT ITS ASPECT HUNG A CHILL AS COLD AS THE BOUNDLESS REACHES OF ITS UNEARTHLY HOME. A CHILL TO FREEZE THE HEART OF ANY LESSER MAN.

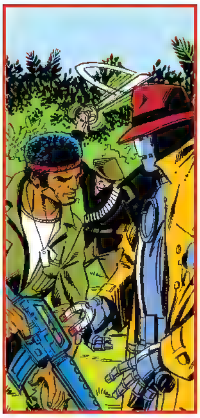
A Chinese man who had lost his prominence and wealth found ten rings in the wreckage of a spaceship in the mysterious Valley of Spirits. The man spent decades mastering the ten superhuman powers they granted and then conquered many nearby villages and established a vast network of power; his goal—as the **Mandarin**—was to control China and the world in order to bring wisdom and harmony to all. Among his endeavors was the patronage of Wong-Chu and the Siancong revolutionary war. His eventual crime lord ways would bring him into conflict with American superhumans, specifically Iron Man. Mandarin's origin is told in ***Tales of Suspense #62* (1964)**, with more details added in retellings presented in ***Iron Man #267-268* (1991)** and ***Iron Man #274* (1991)**.


AND YOU'LL CONTINUE TO SWIM UNTIL THOSE MUSCULAR ARMS HAVE BROUGHT YOU--
--TO THE VERY LAIR OF LADY LOTUS!

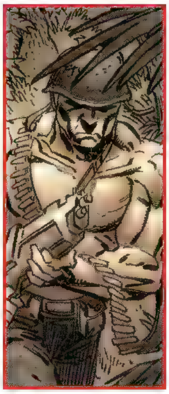
The Japanese **Lady Lotus** used her psionic powers and martial arts skills in service to the Axis powers during World War II, using exposure to lotus flowers to heighten her powers. Angered at the treatment of the Japanese in the United States during the war, Lotus vowed to destroy America; during the war, she came into conflict with the Invaders as a member of the Super-Axis superhuman group. Her criminal activities continued into modern times as Lotus Newmark in and around Los Angeles, California, her age and beauty somehow preserved. ***Invaders #39* (1979)** revealed her origin and details of her life up to World War II; ***Captain America: Forever Allies #1-4* (2010-2011)** confirmed she and Lotus Newmark were one and the same; her involvement in the Siancong Conflict is new information revealed in this series.



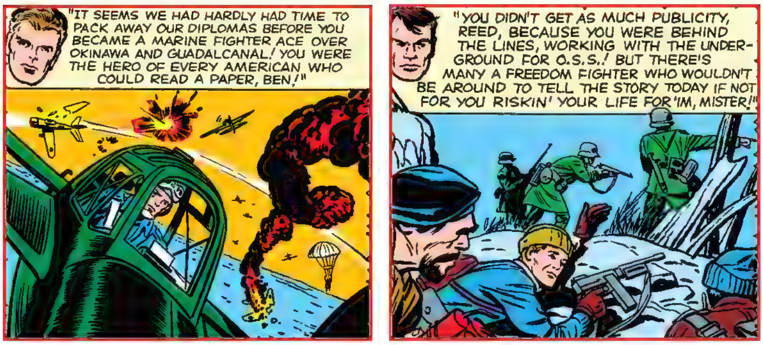
Wong-Chu was a revolutionary in the Southeastern Asian country of Siancong and was instrumental in the country winning independence from France. However, after the war, he turned to communism and crime, eventually helping to bring his country into decades of bloody conflict with other countries and superhumans from around the globe. Wong-Chu's capture of American industrialist Tony Stark resulted in Stark's creation of the first Iron Man armor. The second story in ***Avengers Spotlight #22*** **(1989)** tells of Wong-Chu's revolutionary days in Siancong; ***Iron Man #267-268*** **(1991)** and ***Tales of Suspense #39*** **(1963)** detail his involvement in the origin of Iron Man.



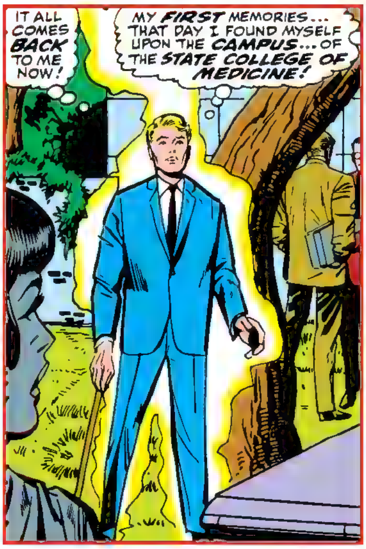
After joining the Marines, **James "Rhodey" Rhodes** served several tours in a Southeast Asian conflict, all while studying to become an aviation engineer. On an occasion when his helicopter was shot down, Rhodes was stumbled upon by Iron Man (secretly the inventor Tony Stark), who had just broken free from the terrorist Wong-Chu and his guerrilla forces by creating the first version of his advanced super-armor; together, the two men relied on each other to get to safety. To repay the help Rhodes gave his "friend," Stark offered Rhodes a job as a pilot. The wartime meeting of the two men who would become great friends is in the second story of ***Iron Man #144*** **(1981)**, while further exploits in the conflict can be found in ***Daredevil #258*** **(1988)**.



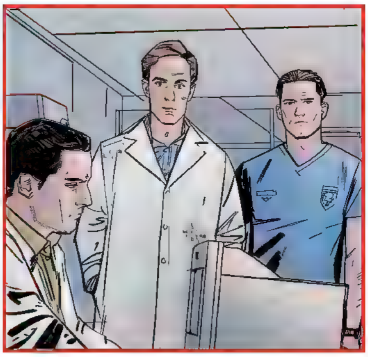
Failed seminary student Frank Castiglione (later **Frank Castle**) joined the Marines, hoping to make a difference in the world by punishing evil. After basic training, he went on tours of duty for four years and was decorated with the Bronze Star, the Silver Star and four Purple Hearts. During the war, Castle received Special Forces training and became an anti-authority loner who eventually gave in to violence and brutal tactics. Early in his service, Castle murdered his first criminal, leading him down a dark and terrible path. In-depth accounts of Castle's activities in the Southeast Asian conflict can be found in ***The 'Nam #52-53*** **(1991)** and ***The 'Nam #67-69*** **(1992)**.


"IT SEEMS WE HAD HARDLY HAD TIME TO PACK AWAY OUR DIPLOMAS BEFORE YOU BECAME A MARINE FIGHTER ACE OVER OKINAWA AND GUADALCANAL! YOU WERE THE HERO OF EVERY AMERICAN WHO COULD READ A PAPER, BEN!"
"YOU DIDN'T GET AS MUCH PUBLICITY, REED, BECAUSE YOU WERE BEHIND THE LINES, WORKING WITH THE UNDERGROUND FOR O.S.S.! BUT THERE'S MANY A FREEDOM FIGHTER WHO WOULDN'T BE AROUND TO TELL THE STORY TODAY IF NOT FOR YOU RISKIN' YOUR LIFE FOR 'IM, MISTER!"

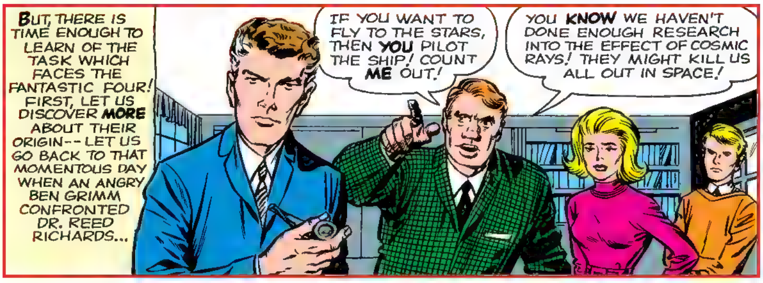
Fantastic Four #11 **(1963)** was the first mention of the wartime activities of Americans **Ben Grimm** and **Reed Richards**. Grimm served as a pilot of remarkable skill, while Richards served with the Office of Strategic Services, a wartime intelligence agency. While this account originally placed their service during World War II, the necessary adjustment to account for the passage of time has retroactively adjusted their service to be during the Siancong Conflict instead. While the OSS no longer existed by the time of the Siancong Conflict, we can assume Richards served in a comparable agency.


IT ALL COMES BACK TO ME NOW!
MY FIRST MEMORIES... THAT DAY I FOUND MYSELF UPON THE CAMPUS... OF THE STATE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE!

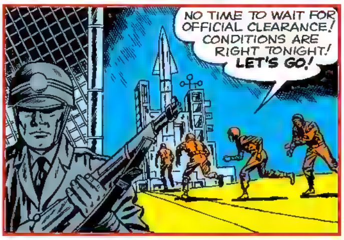
Angered that his son Thor, now the Asgardian god of thunder, provoked a pointless battle with some of Asgard's enemies, **Odin exiled Thor to Earth** (Midgard) to live in the human form of Donald Blake to learn humility. As Blake, Thor had no memory of who he truly was and lived out a life as a mortal doctor. ***Thor #159*** **(1968)**.



When child prodigy and genius Reed Richards started attending university, he met football player Ben Grimm, who would become his roommate and best friend, and Victor Von Doom, a fellow genius from the European country Latveria, whose potential was partially crippled by an unstable ego. Doom proceeded to initiate a rivalry with Richards to prove himself the greater intellect, while Grimm promised Richards he would fly the spaceship Richards dreamed of building, should it ever be made. **The college connection between Richards and Doom** is first mentioned in ***Fantastic Four #5*** **(1962)** and further detailed in ***The Thing #1*** **(1983)**.

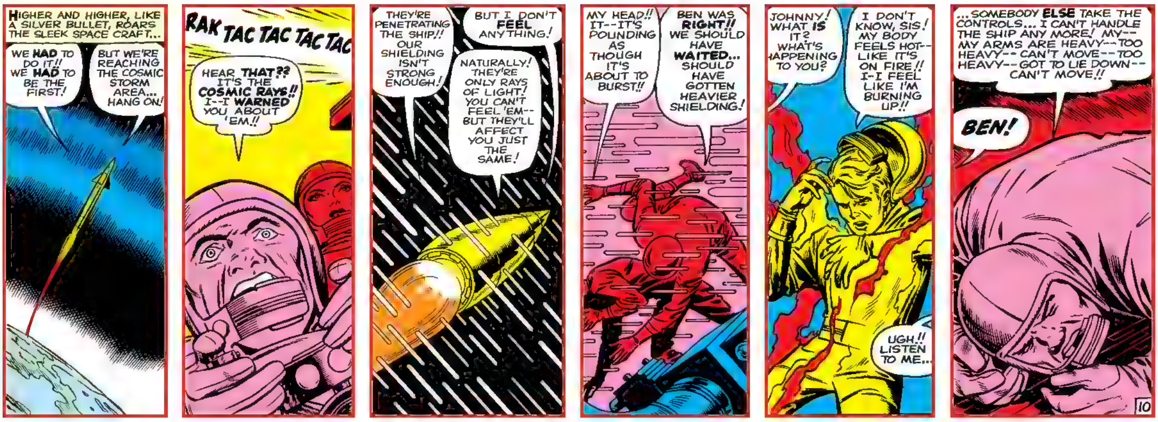

BUT, THERE IS TIME ENOUGH TO LEARN OF THE TASK WHICH FACES THE FANTASTIC FOUR! FIRST, LET US DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THEIR ORIGIN-- LET US GO BACK TO THAT MOMENTOUS DAY WHEN AN ANGRY BEN GRIMM CONFRONTED DR. REED RICHARDS...
IF YOU WANT TO FLY TO THE STARS, THEN YOU PILOT THE SHIP! COUNT ME OUT!
YOU KNOW WE HAVEN'T DONE ENOUGH RESEARCH INTO THE EFFECT OF COSMIC RAYS! THEY MIGHT KILL US ALL OUT IN SPACE!

Fantastic Four #1 **(1961)** reveals that Reed Richards did build his spaceship years later. But when government backing was withdrawn, Richards convinced Grimm to take it for a test flight before the project was shut down. Richards' girlfriend Susan Storm and her younger brother, Johnny Storm, insisted on accompanying them. **The foursome would sneak past security and take a flight** that would change the course of their lives forever.

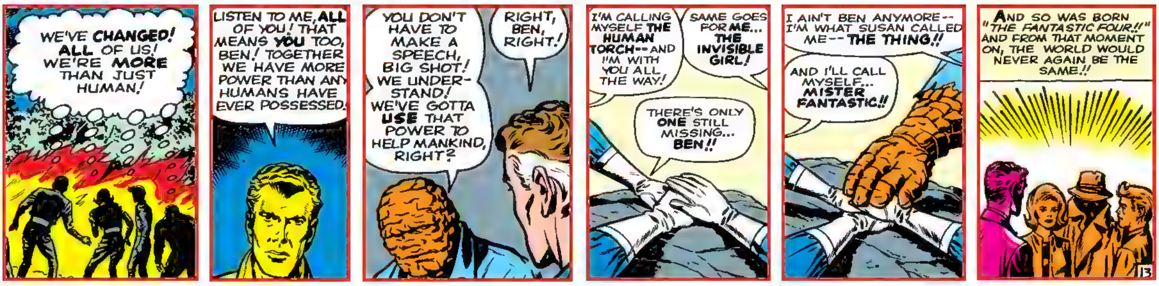

NO TIME TO WAIT FOR OFFICIAL CLEARANCE! CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT TONIGHT! LET'S GO!

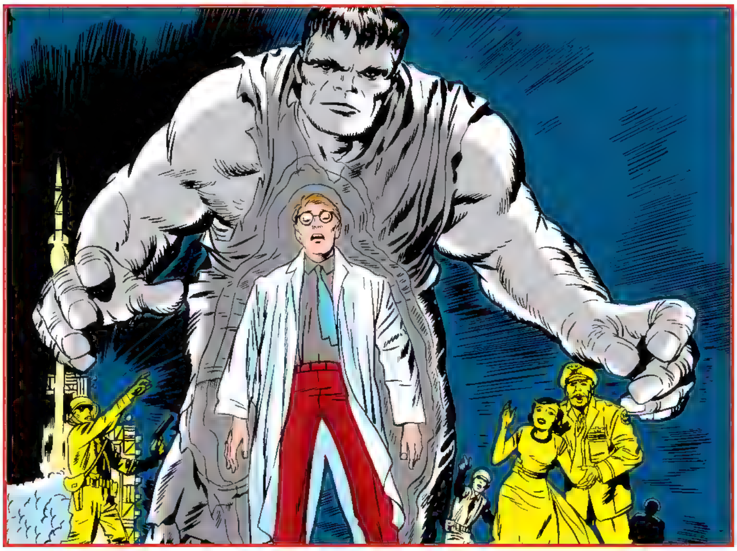
HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #3 ANNOTATIONS

Design: Stacie Zucker with Adam Del Re

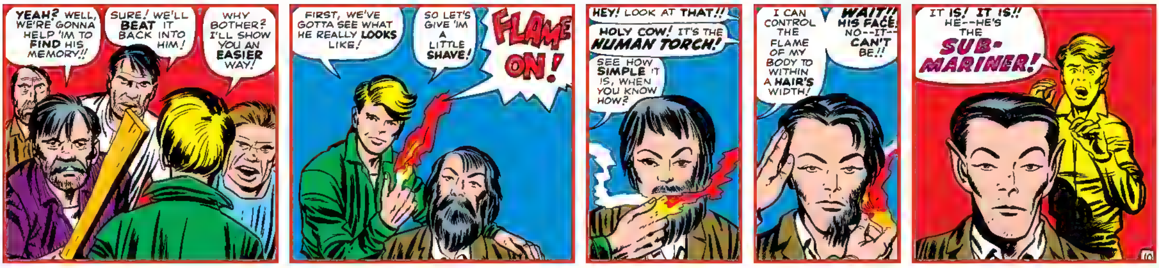

HIGHER AND HIGHER, LIKE A SILVER BULLET, ROARS THE SLEEK SPACE CRAFT...
WE HAD TO DO IT!! WE HAD TO BE THE FIRST!
BUT WE'RE REACHING THE COSMIC STORM AREA... HANG ON!
RAK TAC TAC TAC TAC
HEAR THAT?? IT'S THE COSMIC RAYS!! I--I WARNED YOU ABOUT 'EM!!
THEY'RE PENETRATING THE SHIP!! OUR SHIELDING ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH!
BUT I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING!
NATURALLY! THEY'RE ONLY RAYS OF LIGHT! YOU CAN'T FEEL 'EM-- BUT THEY'LL AFFECT YOU JUST THE SAME!
MY HEAD!! IT--IT'S POUNDING AS THOUGH IT'S ABOUT TO BURST!!
BEN WAS RIGHT!! WE SHOULD HAVE WAITED... SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN HEAVIER SHIELDING!
JOHNNY! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
I DON'T KNOW, SIS! MY BODY FEELS HOT-- LIKE IT'S ON FIRE!! I-I FEEL LIKE I'M BURNING UP!!
UGH!! LISTEN TO ME...
...SOMEBODY ELSE TAKE THE CONTROLS... I CAN'T HANDLE THE SHIP ANY MORE! MY-- MY ARMS ARE HEAVY--TOO HEAVY--CAN'T MOVE--TOO HEAVY--GOT TO LIE DOWN--CAN'T MOVE!!
BEN!
10

When the government suddenly withdrew funding for his starship, genius Reed Richards pushed his best friend, pilot Ben Grimm, into a premature test flight. Accompanied by an insistent Susan Storm (Reed's girlfriend) and her younger brother, Johnny, the quartet were irrevocably changed by unexpected cosmic rays during the flight. The four quickly resolved to use their newfound powers to benefit humanity and to explore the unknown together as Mister Fantastic, the Thing, the Invisible Girl and the Human Torch—the **Fantastic Four**. The team's origin can be found in ***Fantastic Four #1* (1961)**.

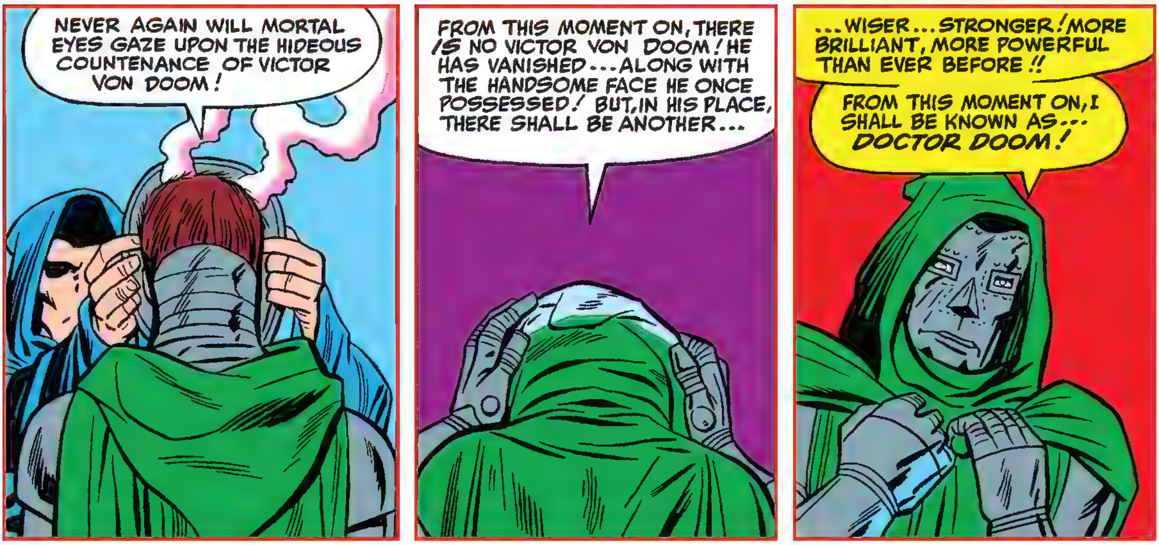

WE'VE CHANGED! ALL OF US! WE'RE MORE THAN JUST HUMAN!
LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF YOU! THAT MEANS YOU TOO, BEN! TOGETHER WE HAVE MORE POWER THAN ANY HUMANS HAVE EVER POSSESSED!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A SPEECH, BIG SHOT! WE UNDERSTAND! WE'VE GOTTA USE THAT POWER TO HELP MANKIND, RIGHT?
RIGHT, BEN, RIGHT!
I'M CALLING MYSELF THE HUMAN TORCH--AND I'M WITH YOU ALL THE WAY!
SAME GOES FOR ME... THE INVISIBLE GIRL!
THERE'S ONLY ONE STILL MISSING... BEN!!
I AIN'T BEN ANYMORE-- I'M WHAT SUSAN CALLED ME--THE THING!!
AND I'LL CALL MYSELF... MISTER FANTASTIC!!
AND SO WAS BORN "THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!" AND FROM THAT MOMENT ON, THE WORLD WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE THE SAME!!
13



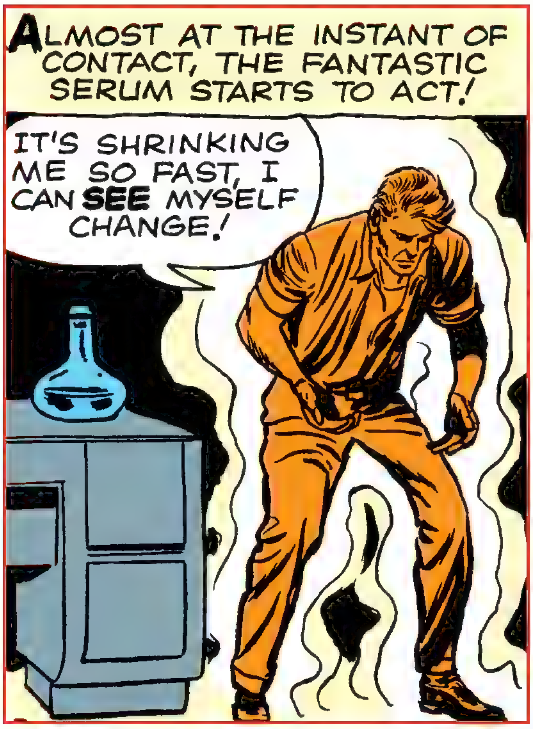
Seeing teenaged Rick Jones in the blast zone of an impending test of a gamma bomb he had created, Dr. Bruce Banner selflessly rushed to get him to safety. However, a secret Russian agent did not delay the detonation, causing Banner to be inundated with massive amounts of radiation. Initially, the radiation caused him to transform at night into a lumbering gray monster, whom a soldier called a "hulk." Banner's transformations soon manifested in green hues, the color the **Hulk** would generally maintain for years. Prone to rage-filled rampages and suffering from dissociative identity disorder, Banner and the Hulk was soon seen as a threat to humanity. Hulk's first transformation is told in the ***Incredible Hulk #1* (1962)** and his first green transformation was in ***Incredible Hulk #2* (1962)**. The Hulk's initial skin color was gray, but became green starting with his second appearance. Later stories in the Hulk's mythology revealed his gray skin manifestation was one of numerous personalities within Banner's dissociative identity disorder.


YEAH? WELL, WE'RE GONNA HELP 'IM TO FIND HIS MEMORY!!
SURE! WE'LL BEAT IT BACK INTO HIM!
WHY BOTHER? I'LL SHOW YOU AN EASIER WAY!
FIRST, WE'VE GOTTA SEE WHAT HE REALLY LOOKS LIKE!
SO LET'S GIVE 'IM A LITTLE SHAVE!
FLAME ON!
HEY! LOOK AT THAT!!
HOLY COW! IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH!
SEE HOW SIMPLE IT IS, WHEN YOU KNOW HOW?
I CAN CONTROL THE FLAME OF MY BODY TO WITHIN A HAIR'S WIDTH!
WAIT!! HIS FACE! NO--IT--CAN'T BE!!
IT IS! IT IS!! HE--HE'S THE SUB-MARINER!

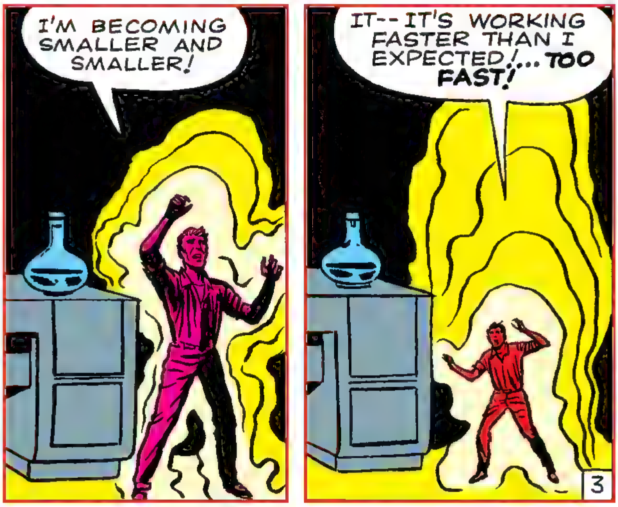
Following an argument with his teammates, the Human Torch wandered into the New York Bowery. After burning off the beard and long hair of a man there, the Torch realized it was Namor, the Sub-Mariner, and thought he would help him by taking him to the ocean, unwittingly unleashing one of the Fantastic Four's greatest enemies; Namor's enmity toward the team was somewhat curbed by his attraction to the Invisible Girl. **Namor's recovery from amnesia** occurs in ***Fantastic Four #4*** **(1962)**.

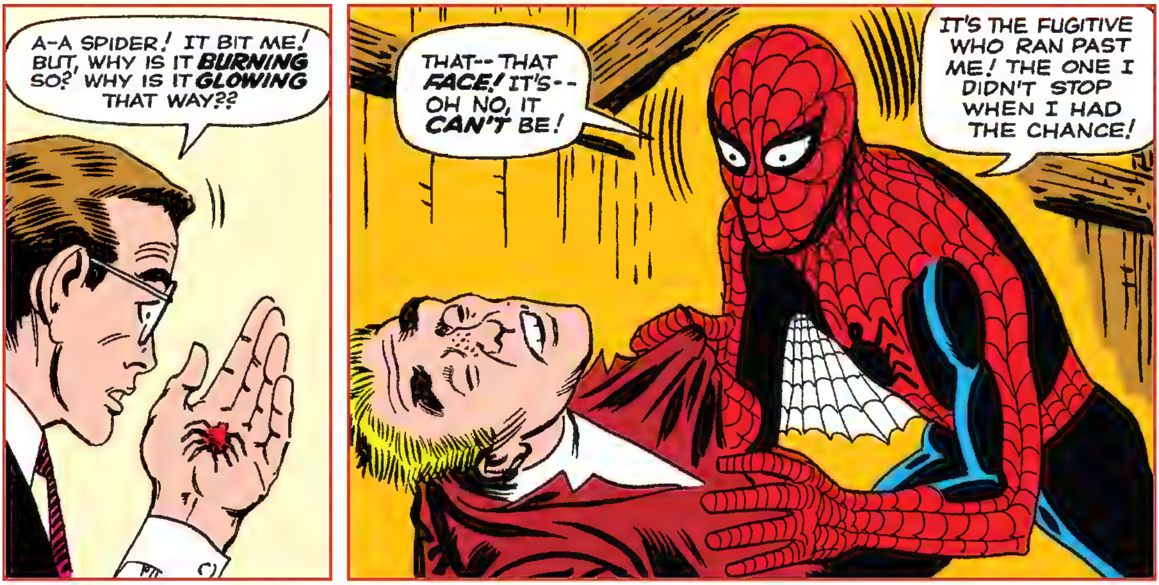

NEVER AGAIN WILL MORTAL EYES GAZE UPON THE HIDEOUS COUNTENANCE OF VICTOR VON DOOM!
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, THERE IS NO VICTOR VON DOOM! HE HAS VANISHED... ALONG WITH THE HANDSOME FACE HE ONCE POSSESSED! BUT, IN HIS PLACE, THERE SHALL BE ANOTHER...
...WISER... STRONGER! MORE BRILLIANT, MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER BEFORE!!
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, I SHALL BE KNOWN AS... DOCTOR DOOM!

Refusing to heed Reed Richards' warnings that his calculations were off in a college experiment, arrogant genius Victor Von Doom was expelled after the resulting explosion. In Tibet, Doom conquered an order of monks and made them forge a suit of armor to hide the scars the explosion left him with; Doom insisted the mask be put on his face while it was still hot, furthering the scarring. As the armored **Doctor Doom**, he used advanced technology and sorcery to conquer the small European nation of Latveria, ruling it tyrannically. Making the subjugation of Reed Richards and the ruling of Earth his goals, Doctor Doom became the archenemy of the Fantastic Four and one of the most dangerous men to ever walk the planet. Doom's origin is revealed in ***Fantastic Four Annual #2*** **(1964)**.


ALMOST AT THE INSTANT OF CONTACT, THE FANTASTIC SERUM STARTS TO ACT!
IT'S SHRINKING ME SO FAST, I CAN SEE MYSELF CHANGE!

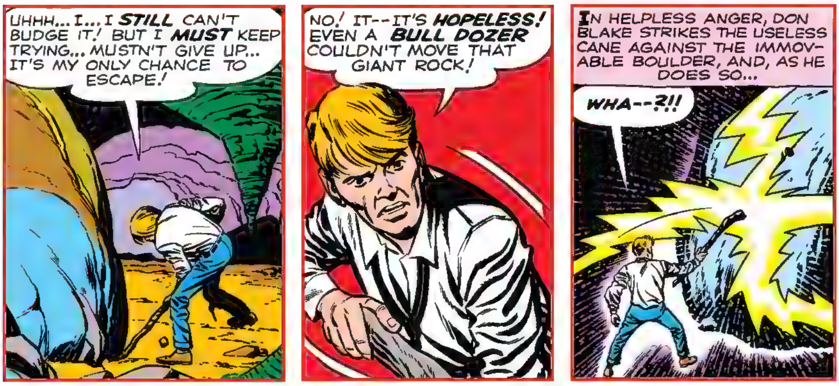
Brilliant yet unstable scientist Henry Pym discovered unique particles that could alter the size of anything they came into contact with. Testing them on himself, Pym was nearly killed by the residents of an anthill while he was ant-sized. Believing the potential benefits these particles held for science were too great to ignore, Pym continued to experiment with them, ultimately using them to become the heroic **Ant-Man**, the first of many heroic identities Pym would adopt over the coming years. Pym's first shrinking is in ***Tales to Astonish #27*** **(1962)**, and his first outing as Ant-Man is in ***Tales to Astonish #35*** **(1962)**.

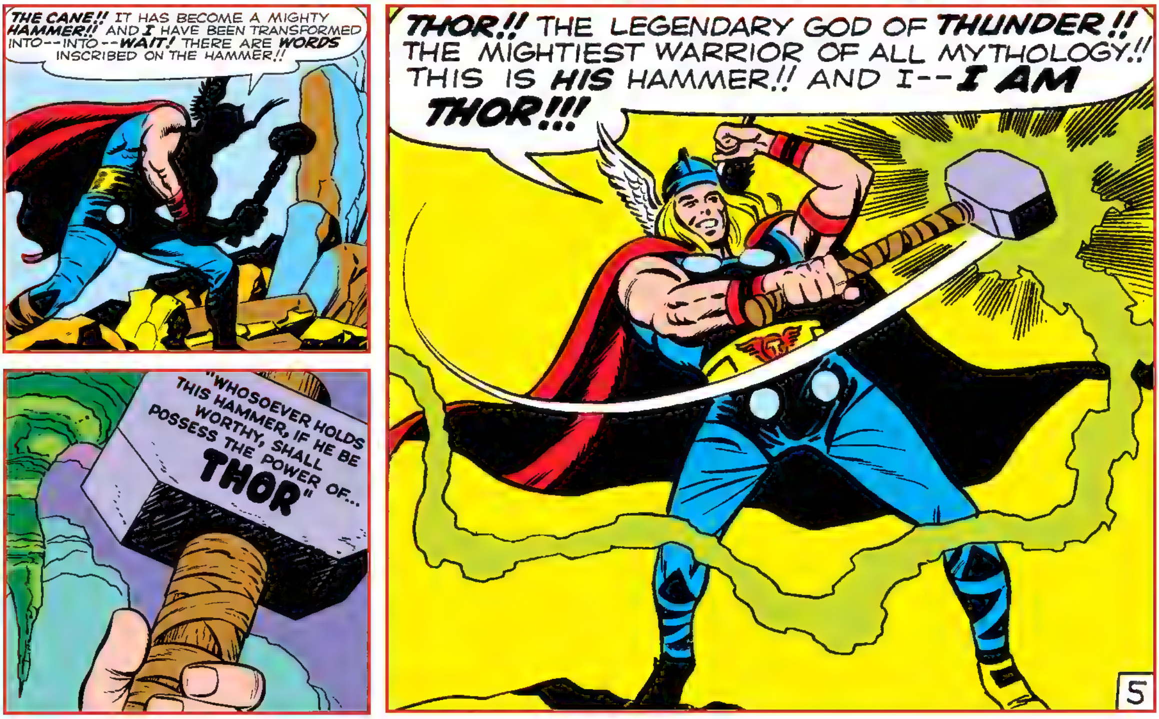

I'M BECOMING SMALLER AND SMALLER!
IT--IT'S WORKING FASTER THAN I EXPECTED!... TOO FAST!

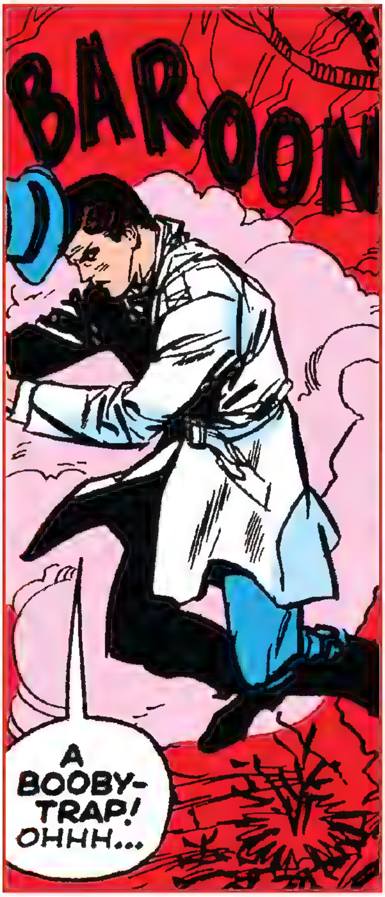

A-A SPIDER! IT BIT ME! BUT, WHY IS IT BURNING SO? WHY IS IT GLOWING THAT WAY??
THAT-- THAT FACE! IT'S-- OH NO, IT CAN'T BE!
IT'S THE FUGITIVE WHO RAN PAST ME! THE ONE I DIDN'T STOP WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!

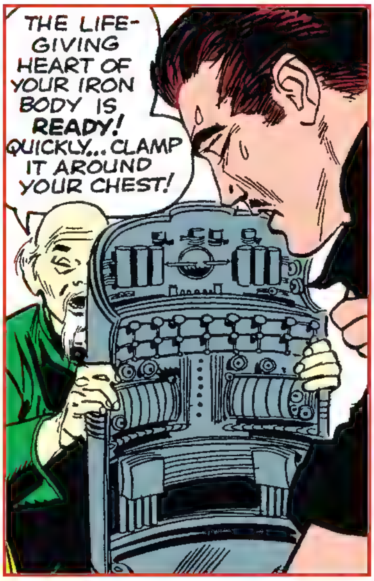
Timid high schooler Peter Parker gained spider-like superhuman abilities when he was bitten by a radioactive spider during a science experiment. Initially using his powers to gain fame and wealth, Parker arrogantly refused to stop a criminal running past him, as doing so would not benefit him personally. Parker was later devastated to learn the criminal had killed his beloved Uncle Ben, the caring man who adopted Parker after his CIA agent parents were killed on a mission. Realizing with great power there must also come great responsibility, Parker dedicated the use of his abilities toward helping others as **Spider-Man**. ***Amazing Fantasy #15* (1963)**.

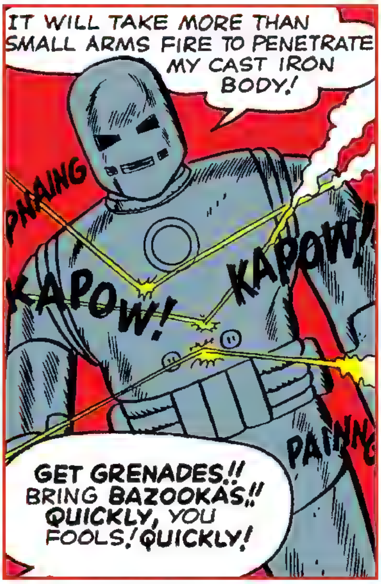
Thor spent years trapped in the body of Dr. Donald Blake, a mortal who required a cane to walk. Believing his son had learned humility, Odin compelled Blake to journey to Norway, where he found a wooden cane in a cave. After striking the cane on a rock, **Blake transformed into Thor**, his memories restored; the cane became the mighty hammer Mjolnir. Thor continued to treat the sick as Blake and battled evil as Thor on both Earth and his native Asgard. Thor's restoration is revealed in ***Journey into Mystery #83* (1962)** and expanded upon in a retelling of Thor's full origin in ***Thor Annual #11* (1983)**.


UHHH... I... I STILL CAN'T BUDGE IT! BUT I MUST KEEP TRYING... MUSTN'T GIVE UP... IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
NO! IT--IT'S HOPELESS! EVEN A BULL DOZER COULDN'T MOVE THAT GIANT ROCK!
IN HELPLESS ANGER, DON BLAKE STRIKES THE USELESS CANE AGAINST THE IMMOVABLE BOULDER, AND, AS HE DOES SO...
WHA--?!!

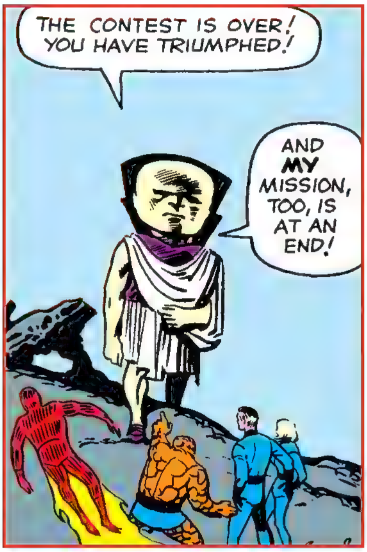

THE CANE!! IT HAS BECOME A MIGHTY HAMMER!! AND I HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO--INTO--WAIT! THERE ARE WORDS INSCRIBED ON THE HAMMER!!
"WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF... THOR"
THOR!! THE LEGENDARY GOD OF THUNDER!! THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF ALL MYTHOLOGY!! THIS IS HIS HAMMER!! AND I--I AM THOR!!!


BAROOOM
A BOOBY-TRAP! OHHH...

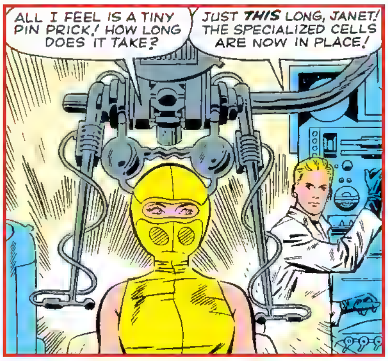

THE LIFE-GIVING HEART OF YOUR IRON BODY IS READY! QUICKLY... CLAMP IT AROUND YOUR CHEST!


IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN SMALL ARMS FIRE TO PENETRATE MY CAST IRON BODY!
PHAING
KAPOW!
KAPOW!
PAINNG
GET GRENADES!! BRING BAZOOKAS!! QUICKLY, YOU FOOLS! QUICKLY!

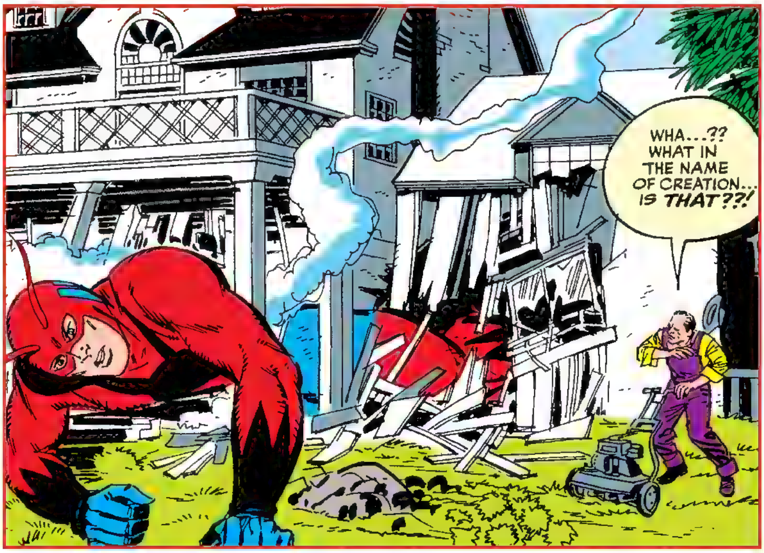
***Iron Man #267-268* (1991)** and ***Tales of Suspense #39* (1963)** detail the **origin of Iron Man**: While in the Southeast Asian country of Siancong to visit one of his international plants, weapons manufacturer and engineering genius Tony Stark was captured by terrorists led by the revolutionary Wong-Chu. During Stark's capture a landmine detonated, causing a piece of shrapnel to be lodged near his heart. While in captivity, Stark was ordered to develop advanced weaponry for Wong-Chu's forces; instead he and fellow captive Ho Yinsen developed a suit of armor that prevented the shrapnel from entering Stark's heart and granted him superhuman strength and weaponry. Yinsen sacrificed himself so Stark could escape and battle Wong-Chu's forces. With the help of U.S. Marine James Rhodes, Stark returned to America, then became one of the country's most prominent super heroes, Iron Man. NOTE: To accommodate for the passage of time since publication, references to the Vietnam War in Iron Man's origin should be retroactively considered to be of the Siancong Conflict.

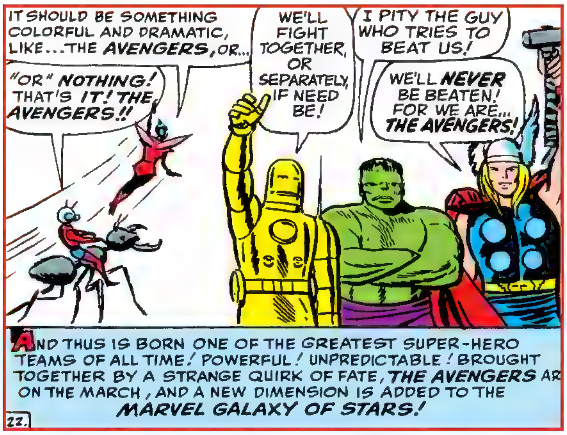

THE CONTEST IS OVER! YOU HAVE TRIUMPHED!
AND MY MISSION, TOO, IS AT AN END!

While investigating the moon's "Blue Area" (the ruins of a former alien Kree settlement), the Fantastic Four were attacked by the Russian Red Ghost and his Super-Apes. Having established his home in the Blue Area billions of years ago, Earth's Watcher (Uatu) observed the battle, then, impressed with their victory, allowed the Fantastic Four to retain their memories of him. Over the subsequent years, the Watcher's fondness for the Fantastic Four led him to occasionally break his vow of noninterference in order to aid them. The **Fantastic Four first encounter the Watcher** in ***Fantastic Four #13*** **(1963)**.

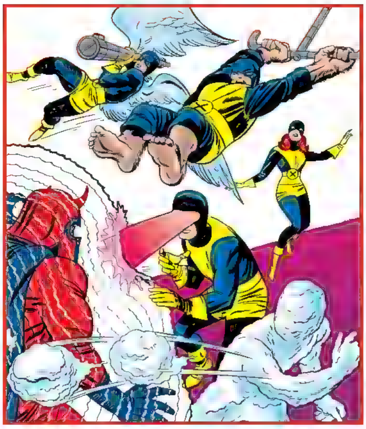

ALL I FEEL IS A TINY PIN PRICK! HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?
JUST THIS LONG, JANET! THE SPECIALIZED CELLS ARE NOW IN PLACE!

Henry Pym's experiments with size continued, resulting in the transformation of socialite Janet Van Dyne into the winged, shrinking **Wasp** in ***Tales to Astonish #44* (1963)** after she reached out to Pym for help avenging the death of her father at the hands of an extradimensional criminal. The Wasp would become Ant-Man's crimefighting partner as well as his romantic partner. In ***Tales to Astonish #49*** **(1963)**, while working to perfect the serum he used to grow from ant-size, Pym accidentally grew to giant proportions; Pym subsequently used this unexpected discovery as the 12-foot-tall **Giant-Man**.

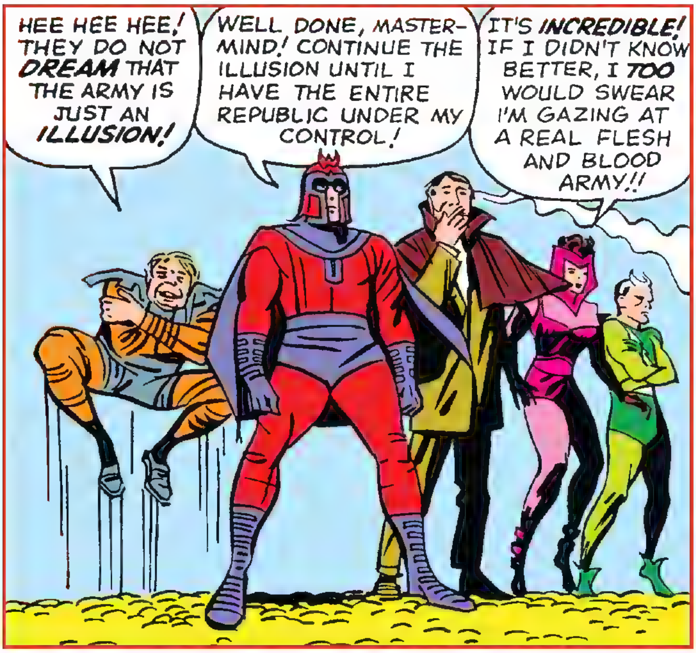

WHA...?? WHAT IN THE NAME OF CREATION... IS THAT??!

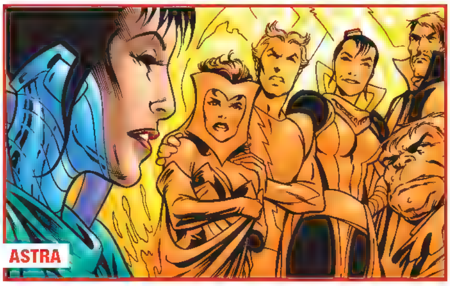

IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING COLORFUL AND DRAMATIC, LIKE...THE AVENGERS, OR...
WE'LL FIGHT TOGETHER, OR SEPARATELY, IF NEED BE!
I PITY THE GUY WHO TRIES TO BEAT US!
"OR" NOTHING! THAT'S IT! THE AVENGERS!!
WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN! FOR WE ARE... THE AVENGERS!
AND THUS IS BORN ONE OF THE GREATEST SUPER-HERO TEAMS OF ALL TIME! POWERFUL! UNPREDICTABLE! BROUGHT TOGETHER BY A STRANGE QUIRK OF FATE, THE AVENGERS AR ON THE MARCH, AND A NEW DIMENSION IS ADDED TO THE MARVEL GALAXY OF STARS!
22.

Prior to his transformation into Giant-Man, Pym was one of five super-beings drawn together through the machinations of Loki, the Asgardian god of mischief. While intending for Thor and Hulk to battle each other, Loki's efforts instead resulted in these two working alongside Iron Man, Ant-Man and the Wasp in defeating Loki and becoming Earth's mightiest heroes, **the Avengers**. This group would expand to the size of an army over the years, becoming the premier collective of super-beings on the planet; much to Loki's chagrin. ***Avengers #1*** **(1963)**.

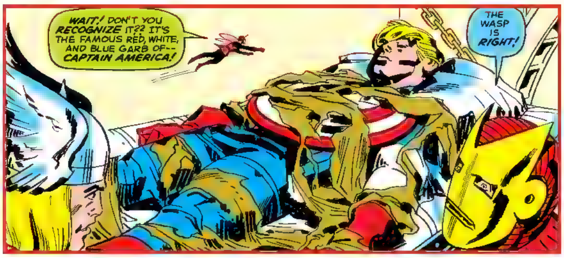


Himself a mutant, a human born with an extra gene granting him superhuman powers, Charles Xavier dedicated his life to resisting mutants who would use their powers for evil, including his best friend, the man known as Magneto. Xavier gathered mutant youth together to train them in the use of their powers so they could protect the ideal of peaceful coexistence between mutant- and humankind. His first gathering of the **X-Men**—the eye-blasting Cyclops, Iceman, the acrobatic Beast, the high-flying Angel and the telekinetic/telepathic Marvel Girl—was a public battle with Magneto when he tried to seize the Cape Citadel missile base to use against humans. The teens were initially hailed as heroes, but their secretive nature and the public's general distrust of mutants gradually caused them to be both feared and hated by society at large. Shown in this series is the team battling one of their earliest foes, the Blob. The team's first appearance is in ***X-Men #1*** **(1963)**.

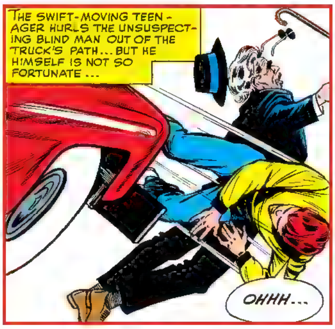

HEE HEE HEE! THEY DO NOT DREAM THAT THE ARMY IS JUST AN ILLUSION!
WELL DONE, MASTERMIND! CONTINUE THE ILLUSION UNTIL I HAVE THE ENTIRE REPUBLIC UNDER MY CONTROL!
IT'S INCREDIBLE! IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I TOO WOULD SWEAR I'M GAZING AT A REAL FLESH AND BLOOD ARMY!!



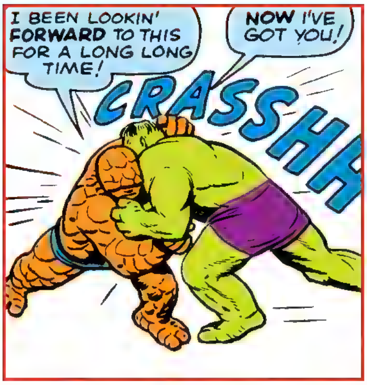
The ideological struggle between Xavier and Magneto intensified when Magneto also gathered mutants to his side, declaring them the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. The two teams battled on the first anniversary of the X-Men's founding, after the Brotherhood took over the South American nation of Santo Marco. Among Magneto's allies stood the teleporting Astra, illusion-casting Mastermind, the grotesque Toad, speedster Quicksilver and the probability-altering Scarlet Witch. Astra departed prior to the battle with the X-Men and the latter two—not espousing Magneto's claims of mutant superiority—quickly turned away from the Brotherhood. The two teams' first recorded battle takes place in ***X-Men #4*** **(1964)**, and Astra's involvement with the team is retroactively revealed in ***X-Men #86*** **(1999)**.


WAIT! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE IT?? IT'S THE FAMOUS RED, WHITE, AND BLUE GARB OF-- CAPTAIN AMERICA!
THE WASP IS RIGHT!

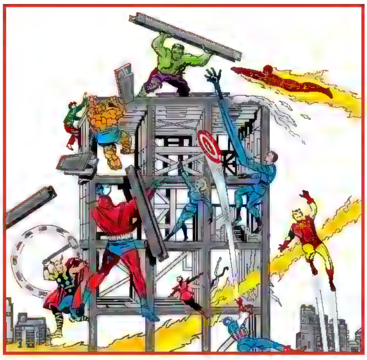
Encountering a group of Arctic humans worshiping a figure frozen in ice, the ever-irrational Namor flung the block of ice into the ocean, where the pursuing Avengers found the figure and realized it was the original Captain America. After reviving him from his frozen hibernation, the team welcomed Captain America into their ranks; Cap quickly became a linchpin of the team and reclaimed his place as the pinnacle of heroism in America and the world. **The recovery and return of Captain America** takes place in ***Avengers #4*** **(1964)**.


THE SWIFT-MOVING TEEN-AGER HURLS THE UNSUSPECTING BLIND MAN OUT OF THE TRUCK'S PATH...BUT HE HIMSELF IS NOT SO FORTUNATE...
OHHH...

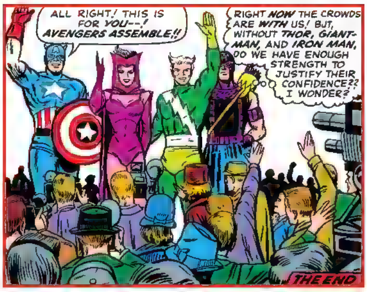
Though blinded as a child by an accident involving radioactive materials, Matthew Murdock's other senses were heightened to supernatural levels. Under the secret training of the also blind Stick, Murdock studied martial arts, eventually becoming an Olympic-level gymnast and fighter. Murdock graduated law school and began fighting crime in the courtroom by day and in the alley at night, claiming a mean childhood nickname as his hero name—**Daredevil** was born. Daredevil first appears in a yellow-and-red costume in ***Daredevil #1*** **(1964)** and adopts his most frequently used red outfit in ***Daredevil #7*** **(1965)**; Daredevil's origin is retold and expanded in ***Daredevil: The Man Without Fear #1-5*** **(1993-1994)**.


I BEEN LOOKIN' FORWARD TO THIS FOR A LONG LONG TIME!
NOW I'VE GOT YOU!
CRASSHH

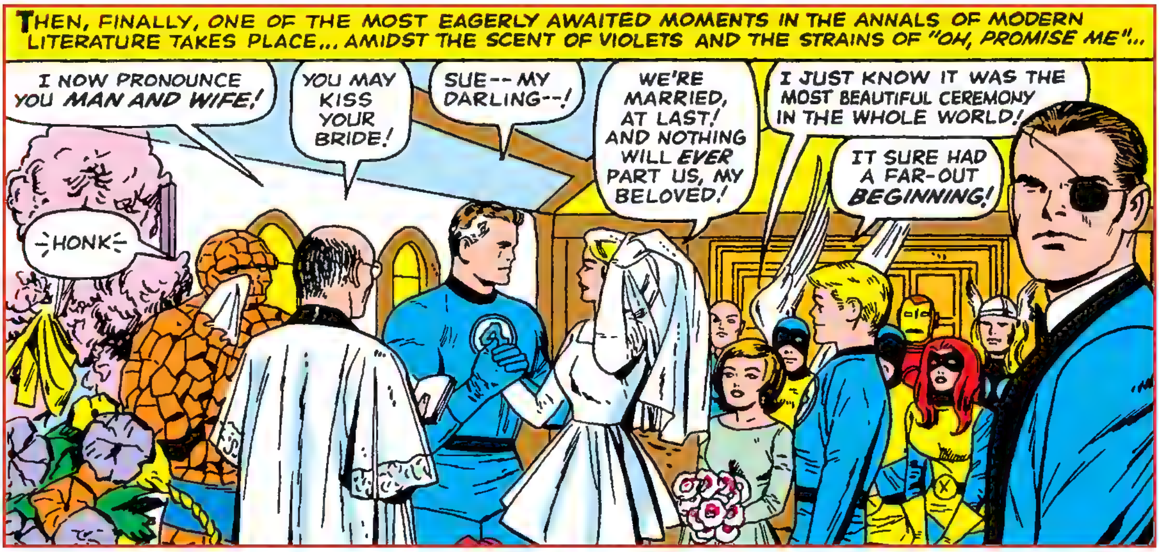
***Fantastic Four #12* (1963)** is the first depiction of the **Thing pitting his strength against the Hulk** when the U.S. Army requested the help of the Fantastic Four in stopping the menace of the green giant. Though their interactions over the years have been largely tense, the two men have come to begrudgingly respect each other and work together periodically.



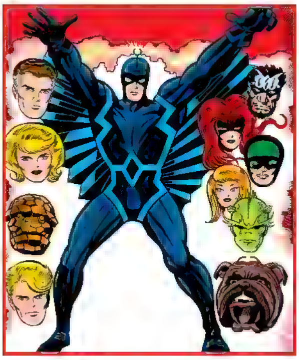
A long-standing tradition of the Avengers and Fantastic Four working together first occurs when the teams communicate in ***Avengers #3* (1964)** and then meet in ***Fantastic Four #25-26* (1964)**, all due to various threats posed by the Hulk. The teams would continue to cooperate over the years, frequently sharing information, cooperating to defeat enemies and even sharing headquarters when needed.


ALL RIGHT! THIS IS FOR YOU--! AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!!
RIGHT NOW THE CROWDS ARE WITH US! BUT, WITHOUT THOR, GIANT-MAN, AND IRON MAN, DO WE HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO JUSTIFY THEIR CONFIDENCE?? I WONDER?
THE END

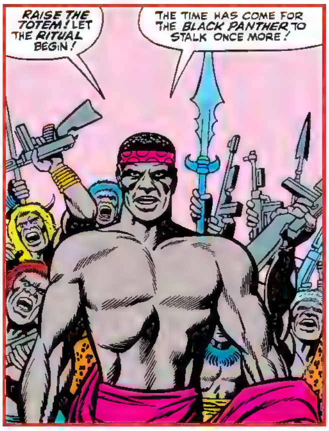
When the founding Avengers decided to step down from active duty to focus on various responsibilities in their personal lives, Captain America led a trio of reformed criminals—Quicksilver, the Scarlet Witch and the archer Hawkeye—in becoming a solid replacement roster. While initially met with skepticism by the public, **"Cap's Kooky Quartet"** earned the respect of civilians and fellow heroes alike. This major shake-up of the Avengers roster—the first of many over the team's storied history—takes place in ***Avengers #16* (1965)**.


THEN, FINALLY, ONE OF THE MOST EAGERLY AWAITED MOMENTS IN THE ANNALS OF MODERN LITERATURE TAKES PLACE... AMIDST THE SCENT OF VIOLETS AND THE STRAINS OF "OH, PROMISE ME"...
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!
YOU MAY KISS YOUR BRIDE!
SUE--MY DARLING--!
WE'RE MARRIED, AT LAST! AND NOTHING WILL EVER PART US, MY BELOVED!
I JUST KNOW IT WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CEREMONY IN THE WHOLE WORLD!
IT SURE HAD A FAR-OUT BEGINNING!
HONK

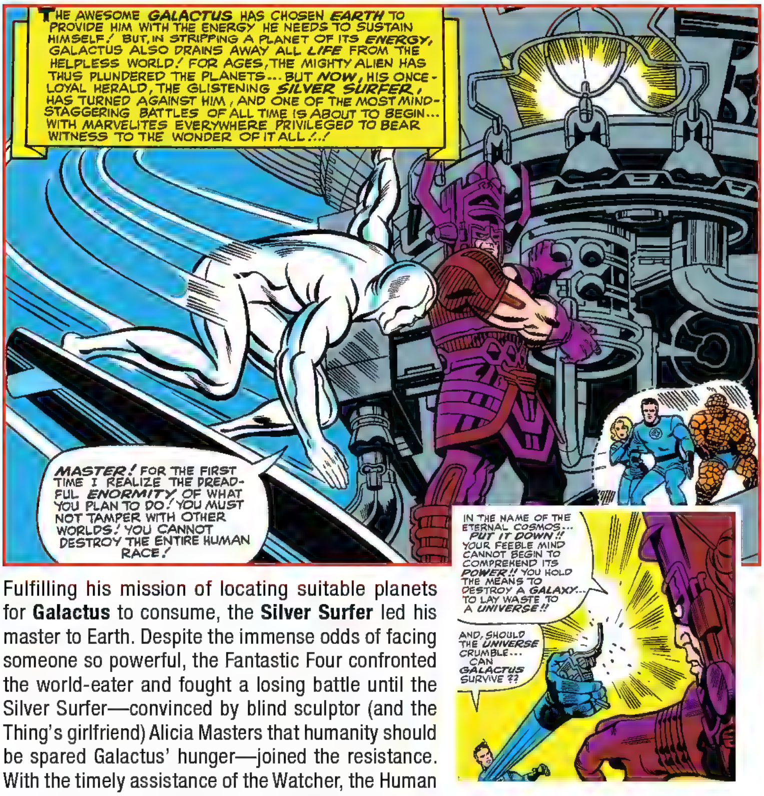
Already famous for their exploits as members of the Fantastic Four, **Reed Richards and Susan Storm's announcement of their engagement and pending marriage** was huge news and caused much excitement for the public. Though nearly every costumed super villain was gathered by Doctor Doom in a plot to destroy the Fantastic Four and the other heroes attending the wedding, their efforts were quickly stopped, and the wedding day ended up being one of joy and happiness for the couple and their guests. The wedding is first presented in ***Fantastic Four Annual #3* (1965)**. It is then revisited in ***Marvel: Heroes & Legends #1* (1996)** and ***Marvels #2* (1994)**.



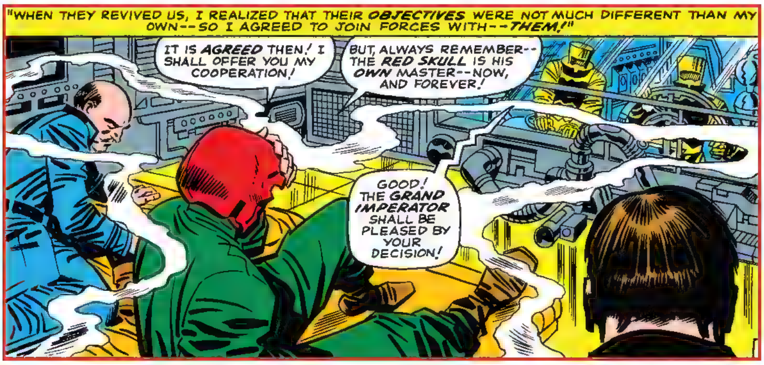
Though the first meeting of the two groups was filled with suspicion and conflict, the Fantastic Four and the royal family of the **Inhumans** (the immensely powerful and mute Black Bolt, hair-manipulating Medusa, elemental Crystal, aquatic Triton, hooved Gorgon, skilled combatant Karnak and teleporting dog Lockjaw) became fast friends and loyal allies. In the long-standing tradition of the Inhumans, the race preferred to stay hidden from baseline humanity, but the trust connecting the emissaries of the two races has remained steadfast for years; both Medusa and Crystal have served as members of the Fantastic Four at times. ***Fantastic Four #44-48* (1965-1966)** tells the tale of the first meeting of these groups and the first appearance of the Inhumans race.


RAISE THE TOTEM! LET THE RITUAL BEGIN!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE BLACK PANTHER TO STALK ONCE MORE!

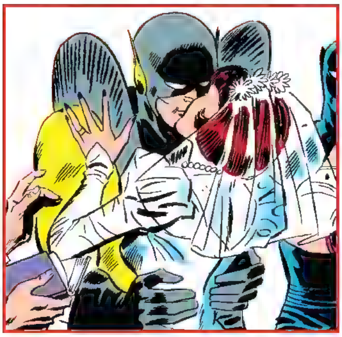
The ruler of the African nation of Wakanda, the holder of the ceremonial role and powers of the **Black Panther** and the shepherd of Wakanda's rare Vibranium supply and vastly advanced technology, T'Challa was taught by his late father to think steps ahead of anyone else. To that end, he invited the Fantastic Four to Wakanda to test them through combat to discern if they were a threat to Wakanda. Eventually, the Four earned the king's respect and departed Wakanda as the Panther's steadfast friends. The milestone first appearance of mainstream comics' first black super hero was in ***Fantastic Four #52-54* (1966)**.


THE AWESOME GALACTUS HAS CHOSEN EARTH TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THE ENERGY HE NEEDS TO SUSTAIN HIMSELF! BUT, IN STRIPPING A PLANET OF ITS ENERGY, GALACTUS ALSO DRAINS AWAY ALL LIFE FROM THE HELPLESS WORLD! FOR AGES, THE MIGHTY ALIEN HAS THUS PLUNDERED THE PLANETS... BUT NOW, HIS ONCE-LOYAL HERALD, THE GLISTENING SILVER SURFER, HAS TURNED AGAINST HIM, AND ONE OF THE MOST MIND-STAGGERING BATTLES OF ALL TIME IS ABOUT TO BEGIN... WITH MARVELITES EVERYWHERE PRIVILEGED TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE WONDER OF IT ALL..!
MASTER! FOR THE FIRST TIME I REALIZE THE DREADFUL ENORMITY OF WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO! YOU MUST NOT TAMPER WITH OTHER WORLDS! YOU CANNOT DESTROY THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE!
IN THE NAME OF THE ETERNAL COSMOS... PUT IT DOWN!! YOUR FEEBLE MIND CANNOT BEGIN TO COMPREHEND ITS POWER!! YOU HOLD THE MEANS TO DESTROY A GALAXY... TO LAY WASTE TO A UNIVERSE!!
AND, SHOULD THE UNIVERSE CRUMBLE... CAN GALACTUS SURVIVE ??

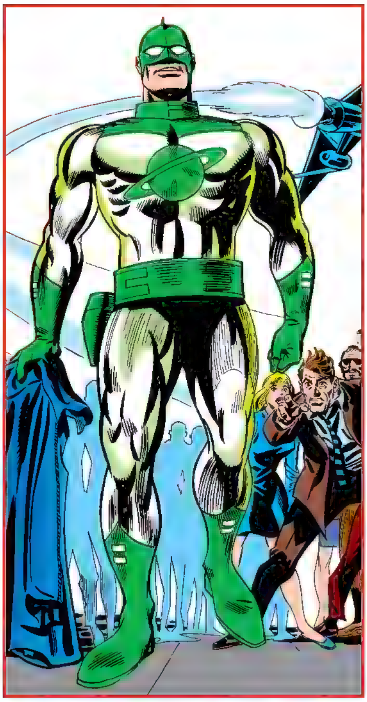
Fulfilling his mission of locating suitable planets for **Galactus** to consume, the **Silver Surfer** led his master to Earth. Despite the immense odds of facing someone so powerful, the Fantastic Four confronted the world-eater and fought a losing battle until the Silver Surfer—convinced by blind sculptor (and the Thing's girlfriend) Alicia Masters that humanity should be spared Galactus' hunger—joined the resistance. With the timely assistance of the Watcher, the Human Torch located the Ultimate Nullifier, a weapon capable of destroying everything, and, using that as leverage, prevented Galactus from consuming a planet for the first time in recorded history. As punishment for his betrayal, Galactus bound the space-faring Silver Surfer to Earth, leaving him unable to reach the stars. ***Fantastic Four #48-50*** **(1966)**.

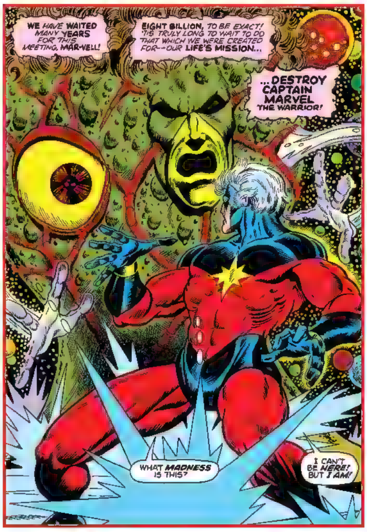

"WHEN THEY REVIVED US, I REALIZED THAT THEIR OBJECTIVES WERE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN MY OWN--SO I AGREED TO JOIN FORCES WITH--THEM!"
IT IS AGREED THEN! I SHALL OFFER YOU MY COOPERATION!
BUT, ALWAYS REMEMBER-- THE RED SKULL IS HIS OWN MASTER--NOW, AND FOREVER!
GOOD! THE GRAND IMPERATOR SHALL BE PLEASED BY YOUR DECISION!

Advanced Idea Mechanics (A.I.M.) was a scientific group that splintered off of terrorist organization Hydra; one of their earliest endeavors was the recovery of the Red Skull and his revival from suspended animation. Though he worked with them for a time, the Skull inevitably turned on them, claiming their greatest creation, the reality-altering Cosmic Cube. Despite having near-infinite power in his grasp, the Skull was still defeated by his archfoe, Captain America; their animosity freshly renewed, the war between Captain America and the Red Skull continues today. **The Red Skull's revival** in modern times was explained in ***Tales of Suspense #79-81*** **(1966)**.

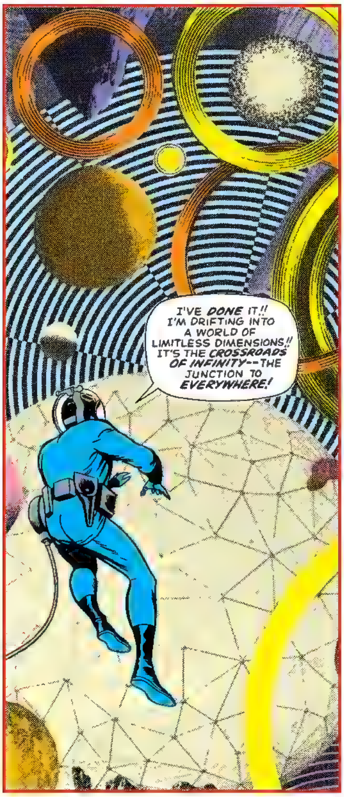


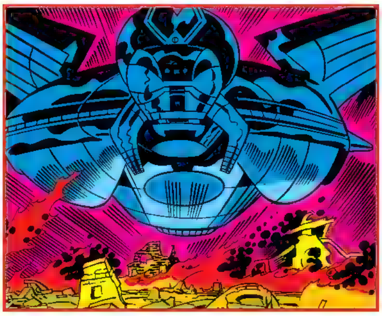
Henry Pym suffered a major mental break when he accidentally exposed himself to untested gases, coming to believe himself to be a different, more confident and brave person known as Yellowjacket. Fearing a psychotic break should they challenge him, the Avengers played along with Pym's delusion, and the **Wasp married Yellowjacket** to help protect Pym's sanity. Though his normal personality asserted itself soon after, the two opted to make their marriage official; Pym maintained the Yellowjacket identity for a number of years. Yellowjacket's first appearance and the wedding unfolded in ***Avengers #59-60*** **(1968)**.

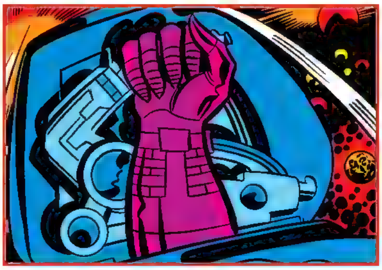


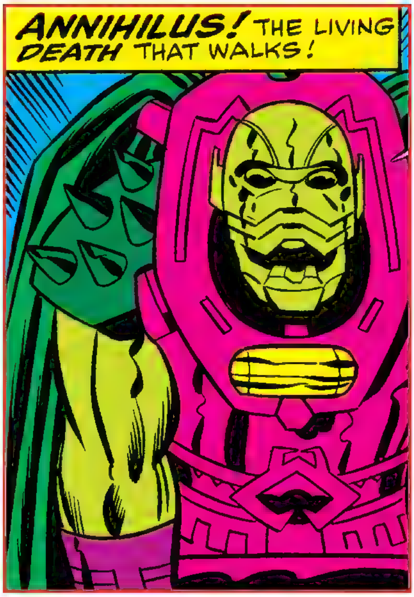

WE HAVE WAITED MANY YEARS FOR THIS MEETING, MAR-VELL!
EIGHT BILLION, TO BE EXACT! 'TIS TRULY LONG TO WAIT TO DO THAT WHICH WE WERE CREATED FOR--OUR LIFE'S MISSION...
...DESTROY CAPTAIN MARVEL THE WARRIOR!
WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?
I CAN'T BE HERE! BUT I AM!

Mar-Vell was Kree, born on the planet Kree-Lar in the Large Magellanic Cloud Galaxy, where he joined the Kree military after reaching adulthood. Sent to Earth to investigate whether it posed danger to the Kree Empire, Mar-Vell served under the command of Yon-Rogg, who saw Mar-Vell as a rival and tried repeatedly to eliminate him. After living secretly among humans for a time, Mar-Vell came to respect them and resisted Kree efforts to harm the planet. Alienated from his own people as a result but not fully belonging to Earth, **Captain Marvel** nonetheless fought to protect everyone. Sometime after adopting a new uniform, Mar-Vell was selected by ancient cosmic being Eon as the latest Protector of the Universe and was granted Cosmic Awareness, the potential knowledge of the entire universe. Mar-Vell first appeared in ***Marvel Super-Heroes #12*** **(1967)**, his origin was told in ***Captain Marvel #16*** **(1969)** and his selection to be the Protector of the Universe occurred in ***Captain Marvel #28-29*** **(1973)**.

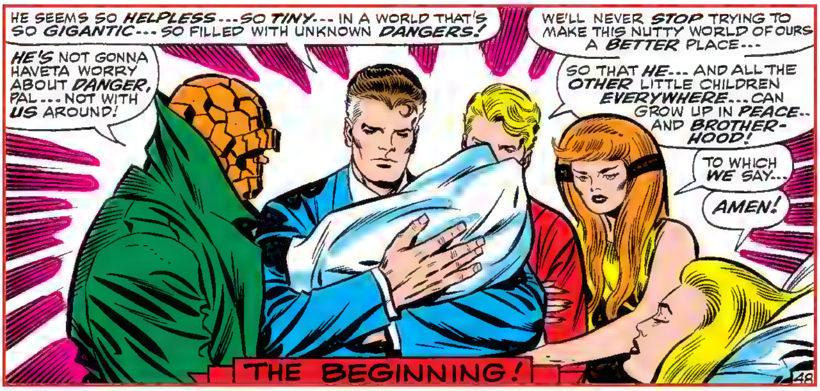

I'VE DONE IT!! I'M DRIFTING INTO A WORLD OF LIMITLESS DIMENSIONS!! IT'S THE CROSSROADS OF INFINITY--THE JUNCTION TO EVERYWHERE!



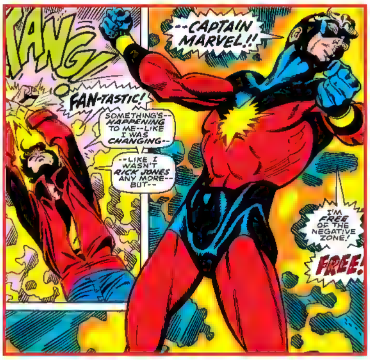



ANNIHILUS! THE LIVING DEATH THAT WALKS!

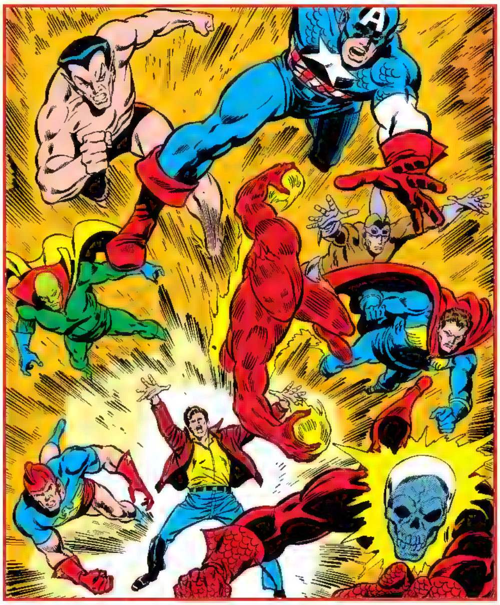
While researching faster-than-light travel, Mister Fantastic inadvertently journeyed to the **Negative Zone**, an alien universe comprised of antimatter; this is believed to be Earth's first contact with the Zone. Over the years, the Fantastic Four and others have explored the Negative Zone, interacting with many of the untold races and planets that reside within, many of them dangerous. Among the most dangerous is **Annihilus**, the "Living Death That Walks," an insectoid creature with megalomaniacal aspirations who has tried to conquer and destroy the positive universe numerous times. Mister Fantastic's first journey to the Zone was recorded in ***Fantastic Four #51* (1966)**, and Annihilus first appeared in ***Fantastic Four Annual #6* (1968)**.


HE SEEMS SO HELPLESS...SO TINY... IN A WORLD THAT'S SO GIGANTIC...SO FILLED WITH UNKNOWN DANGERS!
HE'S NOT GONNA HAVETA WORRY ABOUT DANGER, PAL...NOT WITH US AROUND!
WE'LL NEVER STOP TRYING TO MAKE THIS NUTTY WORLD OF OURS A BETTER PLACE---
SO THAT HE... AND ALL THE OTHER LITTLE CHILDREN EVERYWHERE... CAN GROW UP IN PEACE.. AND BROTHERHOOD!
TO WHICH WE SAY...
AMEN!
THE BEGINNING!
48

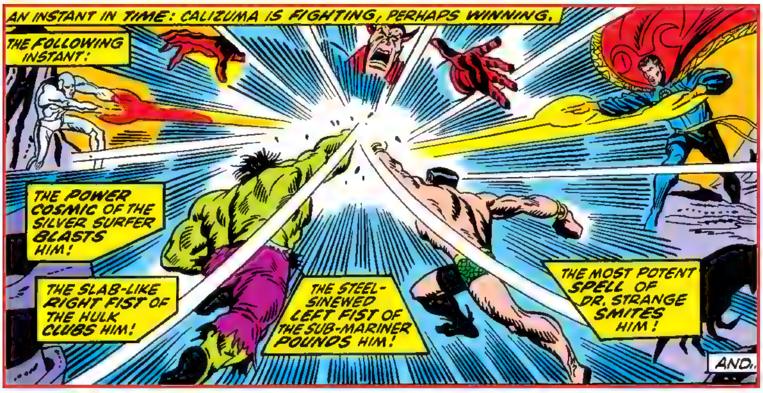
The Fantastic Four's family became five when **Franklin Richards was born** to the Invisible Woman and Mister Fantastic. Though his birth was imperiled by the cosmic radiation in Sue Richards' blood due to her exposure to cosmic rays, the rest of the Four journeyed to the Negative Zone to use Annihilus' Cosmic Control Rod to reduce Susan's energies enough to ensure a safe birth. However, likely due to his parents' mutated genes, Franklin grew to become one of Earth's most powerful mutants. Franklin's birth was depicted in ***Fantastic Four Annual #6* (1968)**.

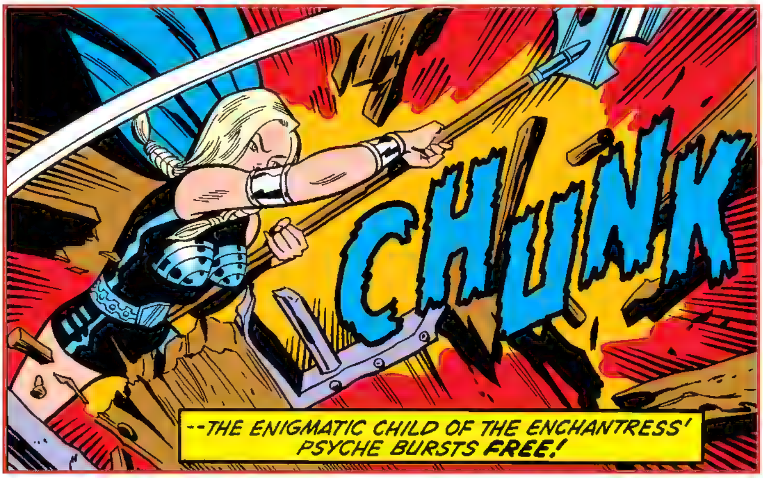

--CAPTAIN MARVEL!!
FAN-TASTIC!
SOMETHING'S--HAPPENING TO ME--LIKE I WAS CHANGING--
--LIKE I WASN'T RICK JONES ANY MORE--BUT--
I'M FREE OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE!
FREE!

When Captain Marvel became stranded in the antimatter Negative Zone, he was only able to travel to the positive universe when the Hulk's friend Rick Jones banged together a pair of wristbands (the Nega-Bands) to trade places with him for a few hours daily. Though their situation caused stress for both men, the two worked together to do good work anyway. **Captain Marvel's bonding with Rick Jones** took place in ***Captain Marvel #17* (1969)**.

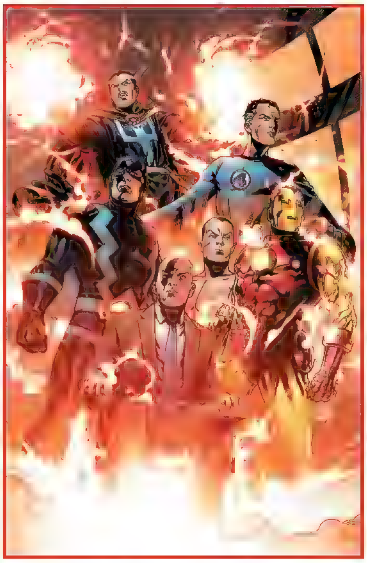


The Avengers and Captain Marvel were drawn into the centuries-long war between the alien Kree and Skrulls when Earth was imperiled by the hostilities and friend of the team Rick Jones was captured by the Kree and taken to the Kree ruler, the Supreme Intelligence, who wanted to tap into the near-infinite source of power within Jones. However, Jones temporarily used this power (later called the Destiny Force) to create doppelgangers of superhumans he remembered from growing up; these beings protected Jones, who then used his power to freeze the Skrull and Kree forces in time. This particular chapter of the **Kree-Skrull War** can be found in ***Avengers #89-97* (1971-1972)**.

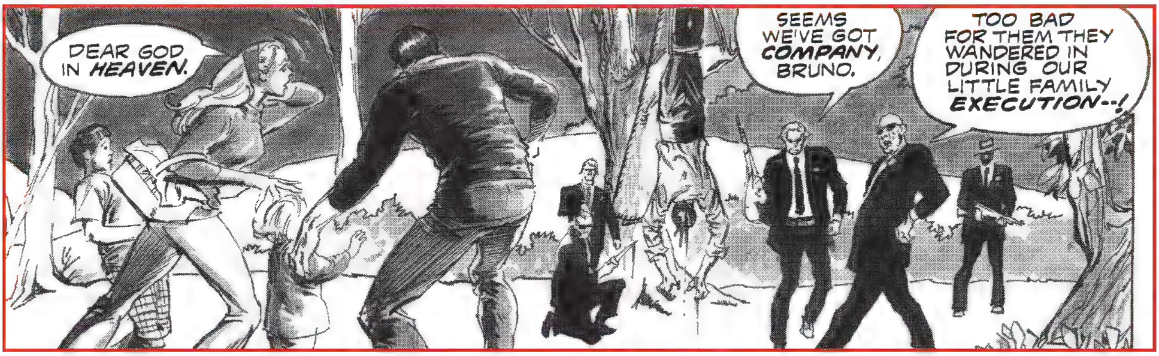

AN INSTANT IN TIME: CALIZUMA IS FIGHTING, PERHAPS WINNING.
THE FOLLOWING INSTANT:
THE POWER COSMIC OF THE SILVER SURFER BLASTS HIM!
THE SLAB-LIKE RIGHT FIST OF THE HULK CLUBS HIM!
THE STEEL-SINEWED LEFT FIST OF THE SUB-MARINER POUNDS HIM!
THE MOST POTENT SPELL OF DR. STRANGE SMITES HIM!
AND..

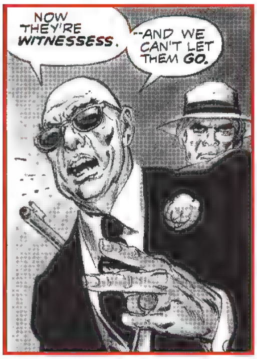

CHUNK
--THE ENIGMATIC CHILD OF THE ENCHANTRESS' PSYCHE BURSTS FREE!

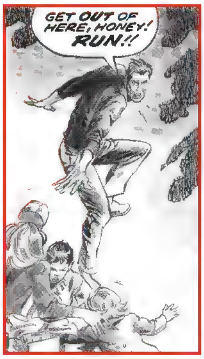
The **Defenders** are an eclectic gathering of super-beings who are drawn together by circumstances rather than officially organized as a team like the Avengers; rosters are usually comprised of whoever is needed (or present) for a particular threat or battle. Among the most frequent members of the "non-team" are the first three who came together as the Defenders: Doctor Strange, Namor and the Hulk as well as the Silver Surfer and the Asgardian Valkyrie named Brunnhilde. Over the years. the team has disbanded numerous times due to their informal nature but are always quick to reconvene when needed. The first gathering was told in ***Marvel Feature #1-3*** **(1971-1972)**, the Silver Surfer "joined" in ***Defenders #1-2*** **(1972)** and Valkyrie was first active in ***Defenders #4*** **(1973)**.

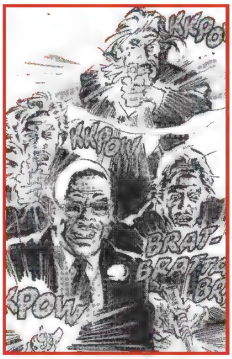


Worried about the safety of Earth following his experiences in the Kree-Skrull War, Iron Man called together a number of prominent leaders within the super-powered community and suggested they gather to share information and help shape events to ensure the protection of Earth. Though the Black Panther rejected the invitation, Mister Fantastic, Doctor Strange, Namor, Black Bolt of the Inhumans and Charles Xavier of the X-Men joined together in this "**Illuminati**." The group vowed to keep their existence and activities secret from all, even their own families. During one of their first recorded outings as a group, the Illuminati confronted the Skrull leadership and warned them from trying to invade Earth. The team's origin and subsequent activities through the years were first recorded in ***New Avengers: Illuminati #1*** **(2006)** and continued in ***New Avengers: Illuminati #1-5*** **(2007)**.

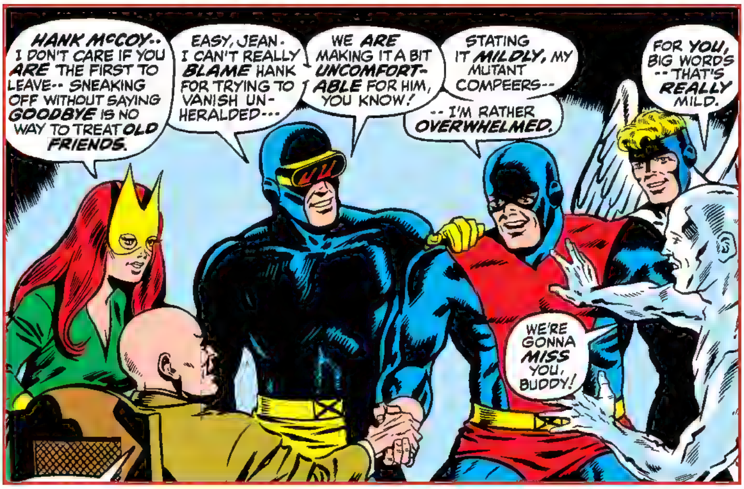

DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN.
SEEMS WE'VE GOT COMPANY, BRUNO.
TOO BAD FOR THEM THEY WANDERED IN DURING OUR LITTLE FAMILY EXECUTION--!


NOW THEY'RE WITNESSESS.
--AND WE CAN'T LET THEM GO.

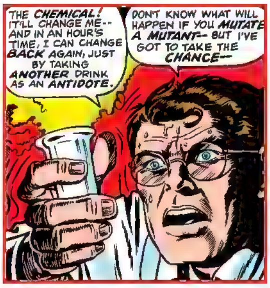

GET OUT OF HERE, HONEY! RUN!!

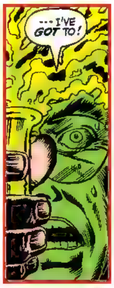

KKPO
KKPOW
BRAT-
BRATT
POW

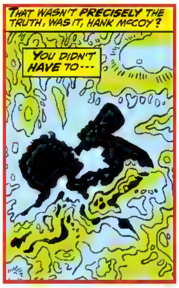
Following his time serving in the U.S. military during conflicts in Southeast Asia, Frank Castle took his wife and two young children to a secluded area of New York City's Central Park for a picnic and stumbled upon a mob murder. Not wanting witnesses, the mobsters opened fire on the Castle family, killing all but Frank. The tragedy drew out the propensity for violence in Castle, and he began a one-man war against crime as the **Punisher**. Countless criminals have died at Castle's hands, and he often comes into conflict with various super heroes who disapprove of his lethal methods. The Punisher first appeared in ***Amazing Spider-Man #129*** **(1974)**, and his origin was told in ***Punisher: Year One #1-4*** **(1994-1995)**.

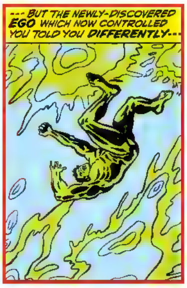

HANK McCOY-- I DON'T CARE IF YOU ARE THE FIRST TO LEAVE-- SNEAKING OFF WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE IS NO WAY TO TREAT OLD FRIENDS.
EASY, JEAN-- I CAN'T REALLY BLAME HANK FOR TRYING TO VANISH UNHERALDED---
WE ARE MAKING IT A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE FOR HIM, YOU KNOW!
STATING IT MILDLY, MY MUTANT COMPEERS-- -- I'M RATHER OVERWHELMED.
FOR YOU, BIG WORDS -- THAT'S REALLY MILD.
WE'RE GONNA MISS YOU, BUDDY!

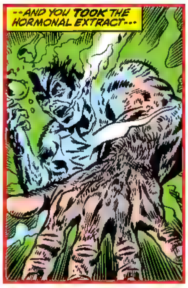
When the Beast left Charles Xavier's school to pursue scientific work, he was forced to protect a "hormonal extract" of his own creation from criminals—one that allowed anyone to briefly become a mutant—by ingesting the formula. However, he waited too long to reverse the process and a secondary mutation was triggered, one that permanently transformed him into furry form that made him a beast in fact as well as name; though originally colored gray, the Beast's fur soon became blue. Through this period, the X-Men began operating more from the shadows in order to avoid conflict with a world that increasingly feared and hated mutants. The **Beast's transformation** and corresponding misadventures were told in ***Amazing Adventures #11-17* (1972-1973)**; many of the X-Men's exploits during this time are told in ***X-Men: The Hidden Years #1-22* (1999-2001)**, and a detailed list of their appearances can be found in **2010's *Uncanny X-Men - Official Index to the Marvel Universe*** trade paperback.

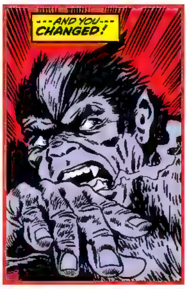

THE CHEMICAL! IT'LL CHANGE ME-- AND IN AN HOUR'S TIME, I CAN CHANGE BACK AGAIN, JUST BY TAKING ANOTHER DRINK AS AN ANTIDOTE.
DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU MUTATE A MUTANT-- BUT I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE CHANCE--



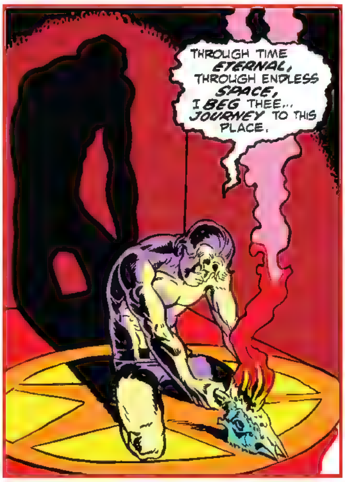

THAT WASN'T PRECISELY THE TRUTH, WAS IT, HANK McCOY?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO---

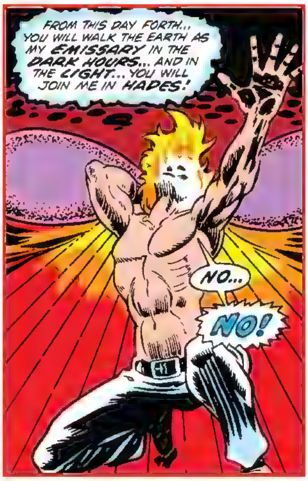

--- BUT THE NEWLY-DISCOVERED EGO WHICH NOW CONTROLLED YOU TOLD YOU DIFFERENTLY---

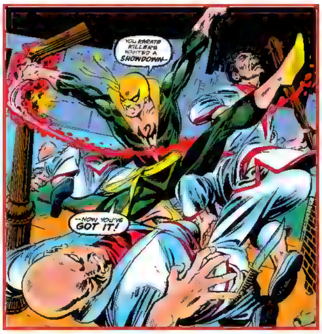

--AND YOU TOOK THE HORMONAL EXTRACT---


---AND YOU--- CHANGED!

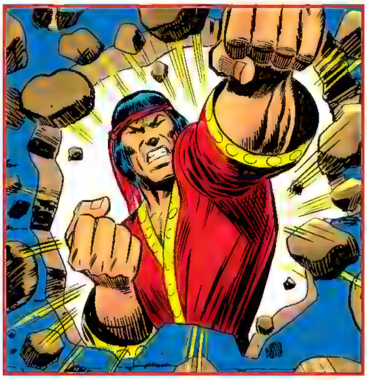
Unaware that his family had long been trapped in the middle of a power struggle between demonic powers, motorcycle stunt rider Johnny Blaze was the descendant of Noble Kale, the first in his family to suffer the curse of the **Ghost Rider**, a powerful spirit of vengeance. As a teen, Blaze made a deal with "Satan" (actually the Hell-Lord Mephisto) to save his adoptive father from cancer in exchange for his fealty to the demon. Despite Blaze's sacrifice, Mephisto cruelly allowed Blaze's father figure to die shortly thereafter in a motorcycle stunt accident. When Mephisto tried to claim Blaze's soul, he was driven off by Blaze's adoptive sister and lover, Roxanne, who used a Bible and an incantation she found in an occult book to banish the demon. However, Mephisto grafted the essence of the demon Zarathos—Mephisto's rival—to Blaze, causing him to transform into a flaming, skeletal figure at night, continuing the family curse. As the motorcycle-riding Ghost Rider, Blaze struggled with the demonic aspects of his new reality but also used his newfound powers to protect the innocent. ***Marvel Spotlight #5* (1972)**.


THROUGH TIME ETERNAL, THROUGH ENDLESS SPACE, I BEG THEE... JOURNEY TO THIS PLACE.

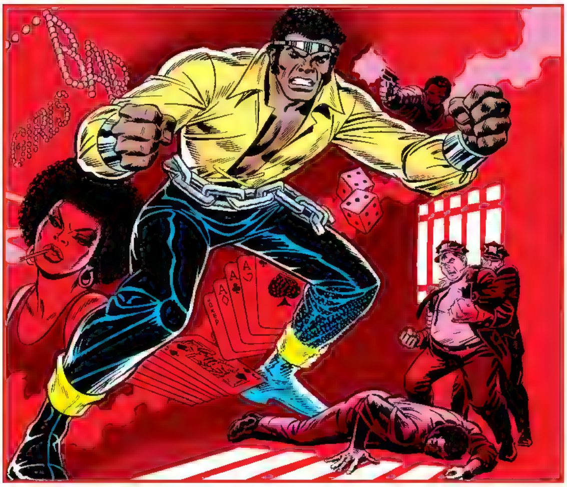

FROM THIS DAY FORTH... YOU WILL WALK THE EARTH AS MY EMISSARY IN THE DARK HOURS... AND IN THE LIGHT... YOU WILL JOIN ME IN HADES!
NO...
NO!


YOU KARATE KILLERS WANTED A SHOWDOWN--
--NOW YOU'VE GOT IT!

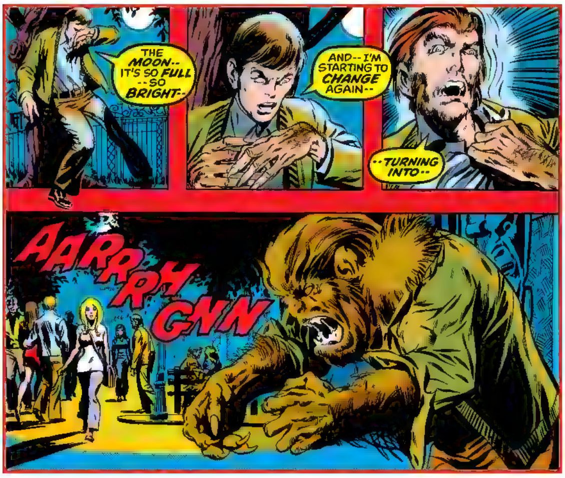
Daniel Rand was a child when his father took him to the Himalayas to visit the mystical, extradimensional city of K'un-Lun that only periodically appeared on Earth. However, during the trip Daniel's father was killed by a jealous business partner and his mother was killed saving Daniel from ravenous wolves. Now orphaned, Daniel was taken in by the citizens of K'un-Lun; over the subsequent ten years, Daniel studied martial arts, becoming a master of the discipline. When he earned an opportunity to face the dragon Shou-Lao in combat, Daniel won. After plunging his hands into the dragon's brazier, Daniel gained the power to turn his hands as hard as steel, becoming the latest to take on the power of the immortal **Iron Fist**. Later, Daniel returned to Earth and became a protector of those who needed it, a hero for hire and an Avenger. Iron Fist's first appearance and origin are in ***Marvel Premiere #15-16* (1974)**.



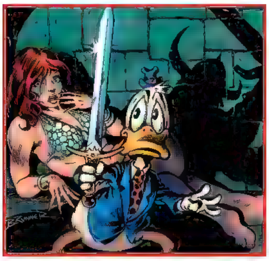
Born in China, **Shang-Chi** was extensively trained in combat and philosophy, kept from all modern technology and unknowingly being groomed as the heir of his father's criminal kingdom. At 19, Shang-Chi was confronted by an MI6 agent, who revealed his father's true nature. After confirming it was true, Shang-Chi chose to live with honor by declaring himself his father's enemy. Shang-Chi traveled the world for years after, using his vast combat skills to aid those needing help and seeking a path of honor. His travels often brought him in contact with superhumans, and his skills quickly earned their respect. Shang-Chi's first appearance and origin are in ***Special Marvel Edition #15* (1973)**.



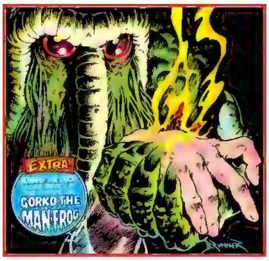
Carl Lucas was a former gang member who was framed for a crime he didn't commit and was put in prison for twenty years. While in jail he volunteered for an experimental cell regeneration project. When a sadistic guard sabotaged the equipment, Lucas was unintentionally enhanced to superhuman levels. Now possessing immense strength and durability, Lucas escaped prison, changed his name to **Luke Cage** and began a career as a hero for hire in New York City. Eventually, Cage cleared his name and became a household name in super-heroics, especially in Harlem. Cage's first appearance and origin are in ***Hero for Hire #1*** **(1972)**.


THE MOON-- IT'S SO FULL --SO BRIGHT--
AND-- I'M STARTING TO CHANGE AGAIN--
--TURNING INTO--
AARRRH GNN

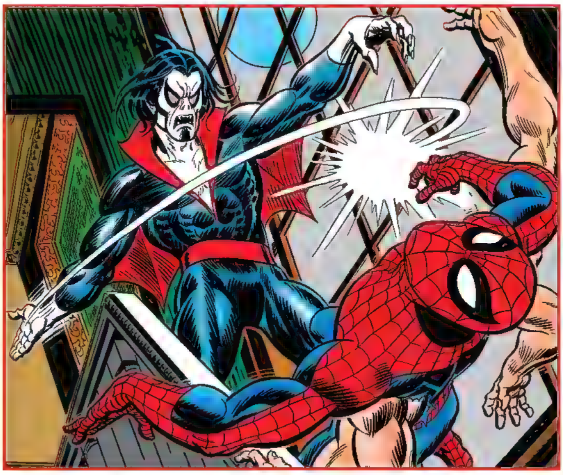
Jack Russell was born into a family with the curse of lycanthropy (the condition that creates werewolves) that dated back to at least 1795. After turning 18, Russell inherited the family curse and began turning into the **Werewolf** with every full moon. Since that time, Russell struggled to come to terms with his werewolf side, sought a cure for the curse and walked through the mystical and dark realms of the Marvel Universe. The Werewolf's first appearance and origin are in ***Marvel Spotlight #2*** **(1972)**.



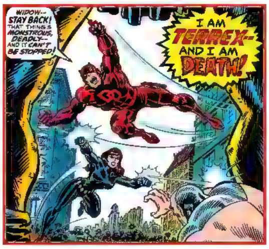
An underachieving native of a world of anthropomorphic animals, **Howard the Duck** was unexpectedly transported to Earth-616 (the prime Marvel Universe) when the Nexus of All Realities was disrupted by the demon Thog. Trapped on a world he never made, the ill-tempered Howard arrived in Cleveland, where he met Beverly Switzler. She would become his good friend, lover and constant companion in his quest for happiness, a good meal and a way back home. Howard the Duck's first appearance is in ***Fear #19*** **(1973)** and his origin is in ***Howard the Duck #13*** **(1977)**, ***Howard the Duck #6*** **(1980)** and ***Marvel Treasury Edition #12*** **(1976)**.

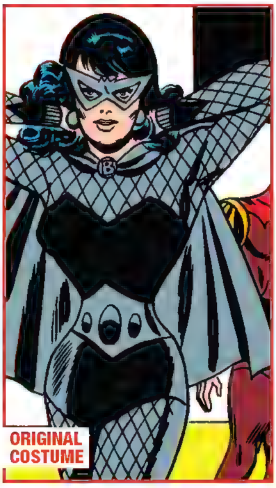


Biochemist Ted Sallis was recruited by intelligence agency S.H.I.E.L.D. to attempt re-creating the Super-Soldier Serum that created Captain America. Sallis modified a previous invention—a serum that would give immunity to toxic biochemicals but would transform the subject into a monster—as the basis for the re-creation. When the corrupt Advanced Idea Mechanics (A.I.M.) tried to seize his work, Sallis injected the only sample of the serum into himself. Magical energies of the nearby Nexus of Reality in a Florida swamp combined with the serum to transform him into the **Man-Thing**, a being comprising moss, algae and weeds. Highly empathic, extreme emotions such as fear, anger and hatred cause him to attack. Fear in another causes Man-Thing to create an acid-like substance that burns anyone he touches. Nearly mindless, the Man-Thing instinctively protects the Nexus of Reality, keeping those who would abuse it at bay. Man-Thing's first appearance and origin are in ***Savage Tales #1*** **(1971)**.

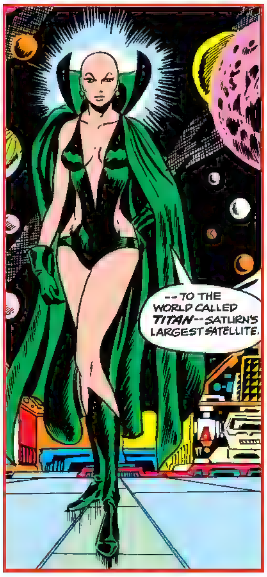


A rare disorder causing blood cells to dissolve forced Nobel Prize-winning biochemist Dr. Michael Morbius to experiment with unorthodox cures. One attempt using fluids from bats combined with an electrical shock unexpectedly transformed Morbius into something similar to a vampire. Since then, **Morbius the Living Vampire** has struggled to control his hunger for blood while searching for a cure. Morbius' first appearance and origin are in ***Amazing Spider-Man #101-102*** **(1971)**.

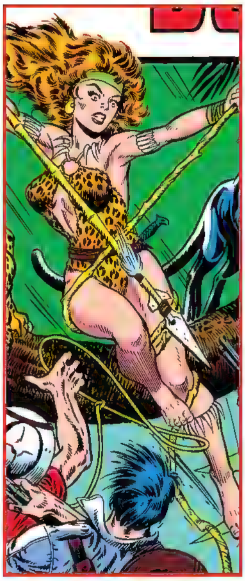

WIDOW-- STAY BACK! THAT THING'S MONSTROUS, DEADLY-- AND IT CAN'T BE STOPPED!
I AM TERREX-- AND I AM DEATH!



Natasha Romanoff, who was orphaned as a child, is believed to be a relative of Russia's last ruling czars. Raised in the USSR's Black Widow Program, Romanoff became a master spy and one of the world's premier combatants. Eventually turning her back on her Russian masters, Romanoff, as the **Black Widow**, began a long career as a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent, became a partner and lover of Daredevil (Matt Murdock) and joined the Avengers. The Black Widow's villainous debut occurred in ***Tales of Suspense #52*** **(1964)** and her origin was told in ***Black Widow: Deadly Origin #1-4*** **(2010)**. Her partnership with Daredevil began in ***Daredevil #81*** **(1971)** and ended in ***Daredevil #124*** **(1975)**.

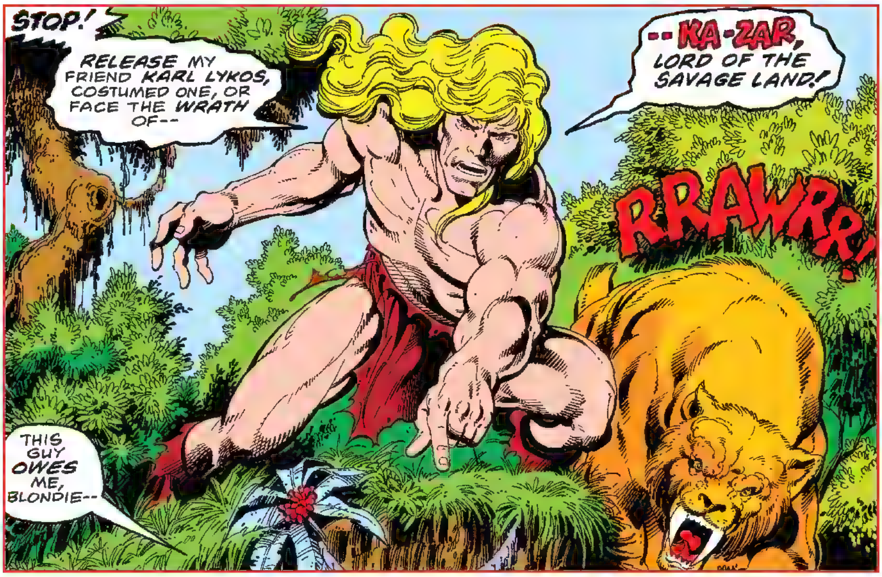

--TO THE WORLD CALLED TITAN--SATURN'S LARGEST SATELLITE.

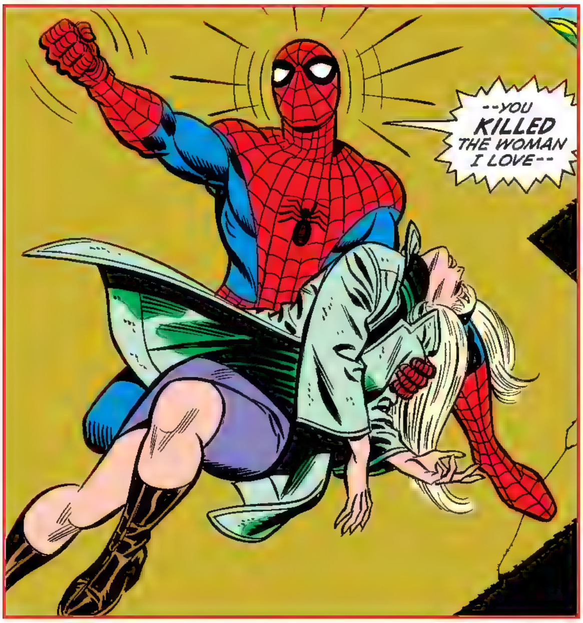
Heather Douglas was orphaned by Thanos of Titan when he destroyed a car to prevent his detection during a scouting mission on Earth. Mentor, Thanos' benevolent father, took Douglas to Titan, where she was taken in by the Priests of Pama at the Shao-Lom monastery. The priests trained her to become a master of the martial, mystic and mental arts. Arrogant and abrasive, Douglas took the name **Moondragon** after defeating the Titans' ancient enemy Dragon of the Moon. Though often considering herself godlike and superior, Moondragon has worked alongside many of Earth's heroes, including the Defenders and Avengers. Moondragon first appeared as Madame MacEvil in ***Iron Man #54*** **(1973)**; her origin is revealed in ***Daredevil #105*** **(1973)**.

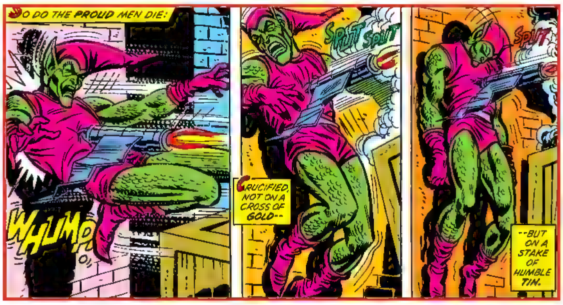


After her mother was killed by an accidental gunshot, Shanna O'Hara was traumatized and left with a lifetime hatred of guns. She turned down a spot on an Olympic gymnastics team to become a doctor in veterinary medicine. While taking two orphaned leopard cubs to the African Dahomey Reserve to be reintroduced to the wild, Shanna began a one-woman war on poachers, slavers, even superhuman villains; locals began calling her **Shanna the She-Devil**. Her activities eventually led her to the prehistoric Savage Land in Antarctica where she met Ka-Zar (Kevin Plunder), the "savage" protector of the land, and his companion Zabu, a saber-toothed tiger. The two eventually married and had a son. They remain staunch protectors of the flora and fauna of the Savage Land. ***Shanna the She-Devil #1*** **(1973)** reveals Shanna's origin.

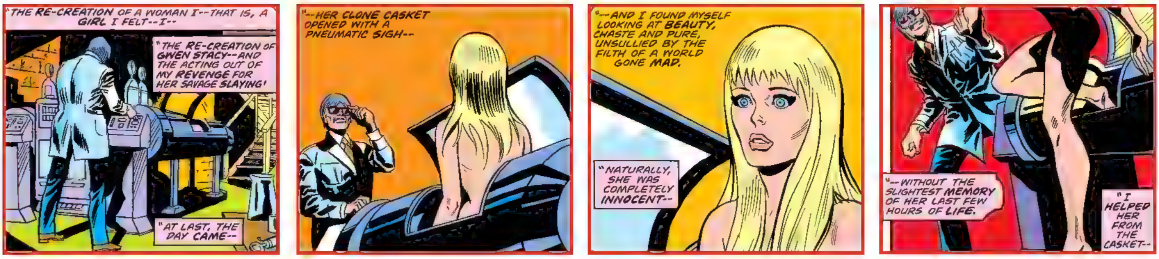
Kevin Plunder was 9 when his father took him to the Savage Land on an expedition to obtain a rare metal discovered there. When his father was killed by primitive Man-Apes, Kevin was saved by a saber-toothed tiger named Zabu, who became Kevin's constant companion and protector. Over the years in the Savage Land, Kevin became very powerful from the harsh life there and was dubbed **Ka-Zar** ("Son of the Tiger") as he grew to become the protector and lord of the land. Eventually, he met and married Shanna the She-Devil, who joined him in his efforts to guard the Savage Land. The two eventually had a son. Ka-Zar first appeared in ***X-Men #10*** **(1965)**, but his origin was not revealed until ***Daredevil #13*** **(1966)**.

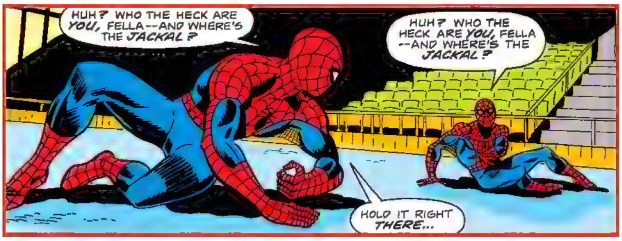

STOP!
RELEASE MY FRIEND KARL LYKOS, COSTUMED ONE, OR FACE THE WRATH OF--
--KA-ZAR, LORD OF THE SAVAGE LAND!
RRAWRR!
THIS GUY OWES ME, BLONDIE--


--YOU KILLED THE WOMAN I LOVE--

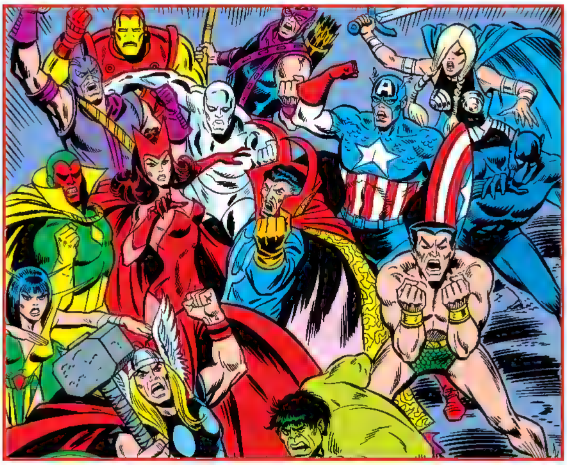

SO DO THE PROUD MEN DIE:
WHUMP
CRUCIFIED, NOT ON A CROSS OF GOLD--
SPLUT SPLUT
SPLIT
--BUT ON A STAKE OF HUMBLE TIN.

Wanting to hurt his most hated enemy in the deepest way imaginable, the insane Green Goblin (Norman Osborn) struck at Spider-Man (Peter Parker) through those Spider-Man loved, kidnapping his girlfriend Gwen Stacy. Parker pursued the Goblin but could not stop him from pushing Stacy off the top of the Brooklyn Bridge. Though he was able to catch her with one of his weblines, the sudden stop snapped her neck, killing her. Consumed with rage, Spider-Man doggedly pursued the Goblin. During a ferocious battle between the two men, the Goblin tried to impale Spider-Man with the sharp edge of his flying glider, but Spider-Man instinctively leaped out of its way in time for the glider to pierce the Goblin in the chest, delivering a mortal wound. **The deaths of Gwen Stacy and the Green Goblin** are chronicled in ***Amazing Spider-Man #121-122*** **(1973)**.

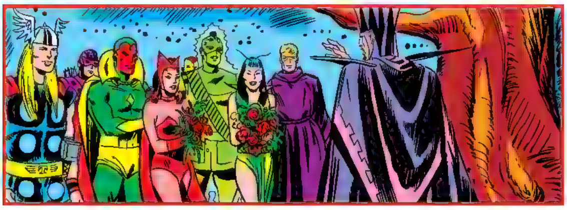

"THE RE-CREATION OF A WOMAN I--THAT IS, A GIRL I FELT--I--
"THE RE-CREATION OF GWEN STACY--AND THE ACTING OUT OF MY REVENGE FOR HER SAVAGE SLAYING!
"AT LAST, THE DAY CAME--
"--HER CLONE CASKET OPENED WITH A PNEUMATIC SIGH--
"--AND I FOUND MYSELF LOOKING AT BEAUTY, CHASTE AND PURE, UNSULLIED BY THE FILTH OF A WORLD GONE MAD.
"NATURALLY, SHE WAS COMPLETELY INNOCENT--
"--WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST MEMORY OF HER LAST FEW HOURS OF LIFE.
"I HELPED HER FROM THE CASKET--


HUH? WHO THE HECK ARE YOU, FELLA--AND WHERE'S THE JACKAL?
HUH? WHO THE HECK ARE YOU, FELLA --AND WHERE'S THE JACKAL?
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE...

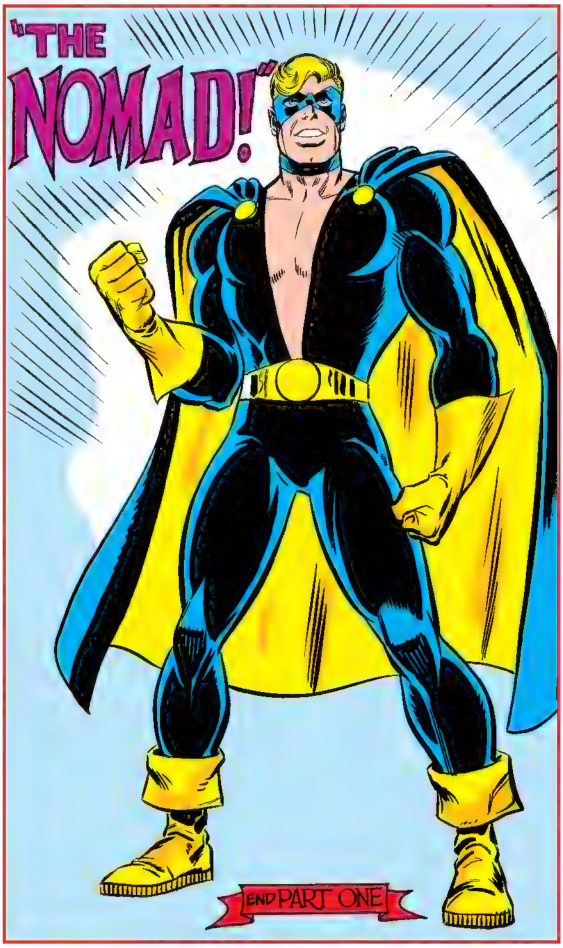
Obsessing about his student Gwen Stacy, a girl he could never have, and devastated by her death, Professor Miles Warren became unhinged and eventually cloned her. Blaming Spider-Man for Stacy's death, Warren also cloned him, hoping to use both clones to torment him. A confrontation between the two Spider-Men and the Jackal ended with what Spider-Man believed was the death of the Spider-Man clone and the Jackal. However, Warren's actions sowed seeds that would prove devastating to Spider-Man's life in the future. The story of the **Jackal's cloning of Gwen Stacy and Spider-Man** unfolds in ***Amazing Spider-Man #149-151*** **(1975)**.



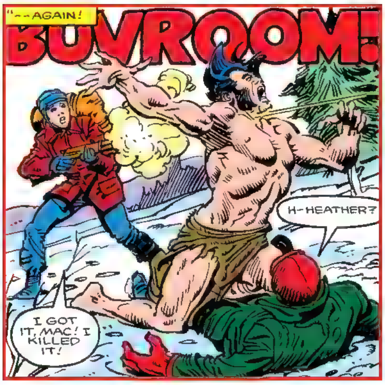
Avengers #116-118 **(1973)** and ***Defenders #9-10*** **(1973)** tell the story of the **Avengers-Defenders War**, a conflict where the Avengers and the Defenders were manipulated into battling each other by the tyrannical ruler of the Dark Dimension, Dormammu, and the Asgardian God of Lies, Loki. Seeking to assemble the shattered Evil Eye, a powerful artifact that could free Dormammu to invade Earth, the two villains forced the individual members of both groups to duel over the six pieces of the Eye. After realizing they were being manipulated, the two teams came together to defeat the plans of their enemies; the two groups parted as friendly allies.



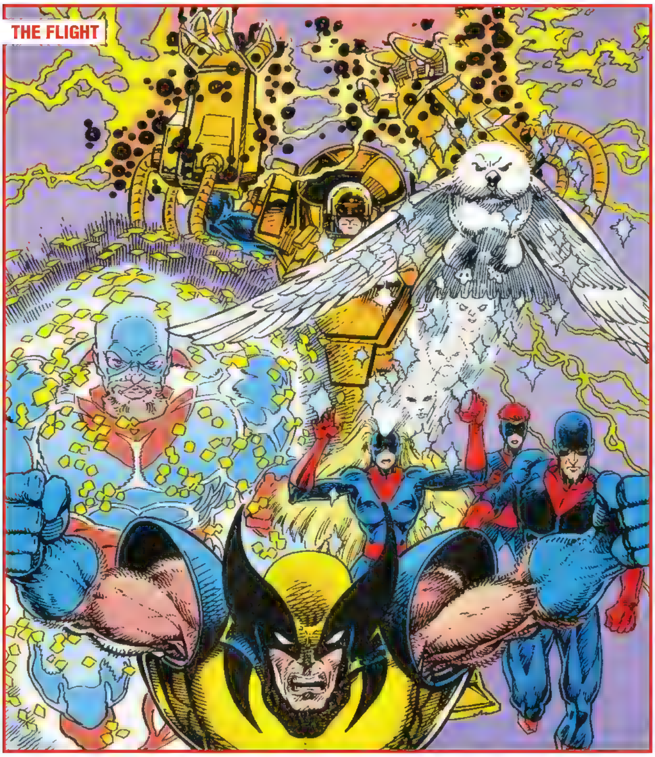
Quite possibly the **strangest wedding in Marvel history** takes place in ***Giant-Sized Avengers #4*** **(1975)**, when two couples marry in a dual ceremony. In order to become the Celestial Madonna (a woman destined to give birth to the genetically perfect Celestial Messiah) empathic martial artist Mantis married the spirit of the alien Cotati Supreme Exemplar while it reanimated the body of deceased Avenger (and Mantis' former lover) Swordsman; following the ceremony, the two transformed to energy and departed Earth to fulfill their destiny. Longtime Avengers teammates Vision and the Scarlet Witch also married, finally giving in to their long-denied feelings. However, they remained unaware that they had long been manipulated by the time-traveling mastermind Immortus, who, believing any offspring of the Scarlet Witch could become dangerously powerful, wanted to encourage the union of the mutant with an artificial man whom he believed could not procreate. Despite this, the love between the two stood strong for a number of years.

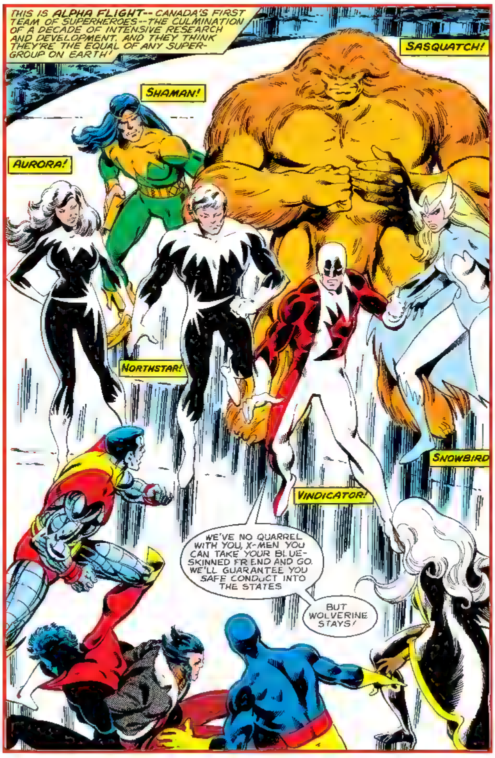

"THE NOMAD!"
END PART ONE

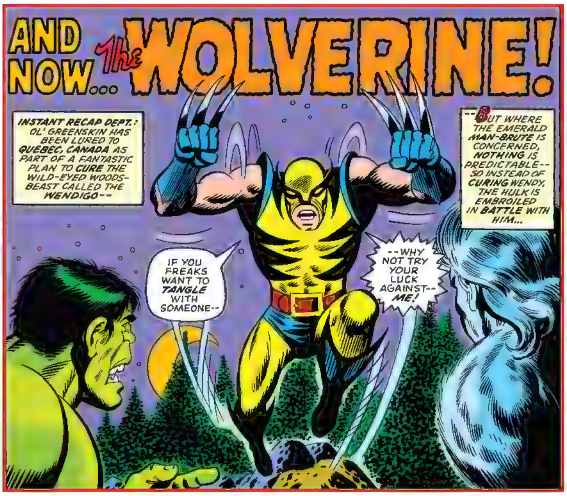
Steve Rogers suffered a devastating blow to his confidence when he discovered the leader of the corrupt Secret Empire was a high-ranking U.S. government official, one who had helped try to frame Captain America for murder. When the confrontation with this official ended in their suicide, Rogers was horrified and quit being Captain America so he was not representing a nation that had been corrupted. However, he soon realized he could not ignore his mission to protect others and adopted another costumed identity—**Nomad**, the man without a country. When a man named Roscoe tried to fill the Captain America role and was killed by the Red Skull, Rogers reclaimed the title and uniform of Cap once more. The Secret Empire storyline begins in ***Captain America #169*** **(1973)**, Rogers takes the Nomad identity in ***Captain America #180*** **(1974)** and the storyline culminates with him reclaiming the role of Cap in ***Captain America #183-184*** **(1974)**.


"--AGAIN!
BUVROOM!
H-HEATHER?
I GOT IT, MAC! I KILLED IT!

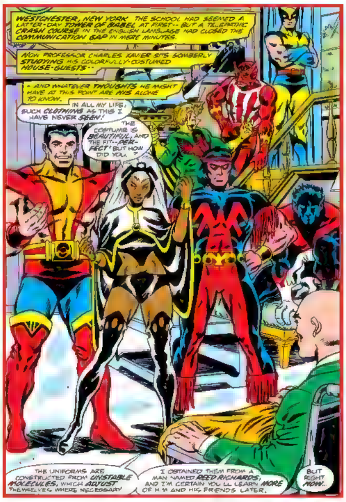
Wandering through the Canadian wilderness after escaping his Weapon X captors and torturers, the near-feral Logan encountered the honeymooning James and Heather Hudson. When Logan attacked James, Heather incapacitated Logan with a gunshot. Heather was eventually able to reach through to Logan, helping him begin a long, arduous path back toward humanity, a journey Logan struggled with for years. Inspired by the Fantastic Four, James Hudson began work on building a superhuman team for Canada. Among the first recruits for "the Flight" were the shape-shifting Snowbird, telekinetic but mentally damaged Stitch, genius Smart Alec, keeper of the Northern Lights Saint Elmo and policeman Sean Bernard, who was recruited to pilot an armored suit James Hudson had created; as Weapon X, Logan was selected to lead this team. After a disastrous mission that left the Flight shattered, James Hudson began recruiting beings who would become the Flight's successors. Speedsters Northstar and Aurora, mystic Shaman and the superstrong Sasquatch joined Snowbird and Wolverine as **Alpha Flight**. The Hudsons' discovery of Logan was told in ***Alpha Flight #33* (1985)**, the Flight's origin was revealed in ***Alpha Flight Special #1* (1992)** and the recruitment of Alpha Flight was recounted in the second stories of ***Alpha Flight #2-11* (1983-1984)**.



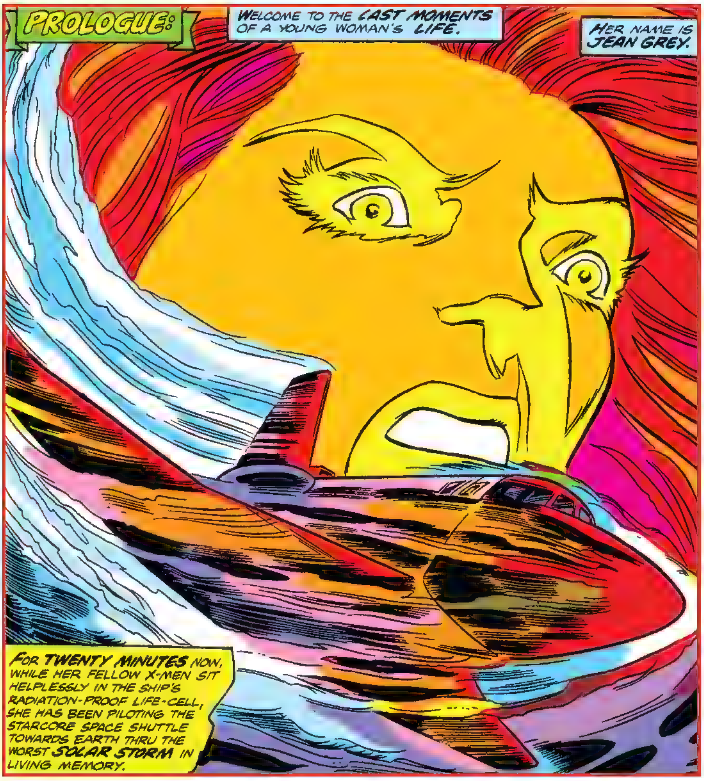

THIS IS ALPHA FLIGHT-- CANADA'S FIRST TEAM OF SUPERHEROES--THE CULMINATION OF A DECADE OF INTENSIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. AND THEY THINK THEY'RE THE EQUAL OF ANY SUPER-GROUP ON EARTH!
SASQUATCH!
SHAMAN!
AURORA!
NORTHSTAR!
SNOWBIRD
VINDICATOR!
WE'VE NO QUARREL WITH YOU, X-MEN YOU CAN TAKE YOUR BLUE-SKINNED FRIEND AND GO. WE'LL GUARANTEE YOU SAFE CONDUCT INTO THE STATES
BUT WOLVERINE STAYS!

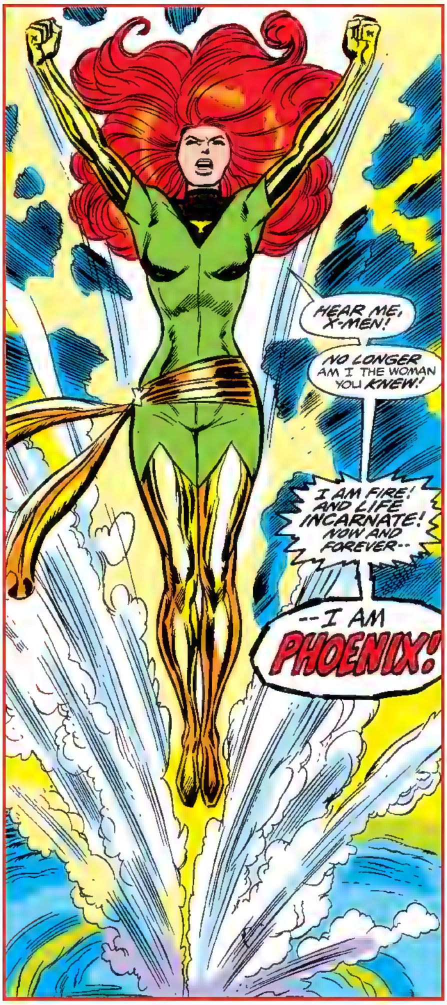

AND NOW... The WOLVERINE!
INSTANT RECAP DEPT.: OL' GREENSKIN HAS BEEN LURED TO QUEBEC, CANADA AS PART OF A FANTASTIC PLAN TO CURE THE WILD-EYED WOODS-BEAST CALLED THE WENDIGO--
--BUT WHERE THE EMERALD MAN-BRUTE IS CONCERNED, NOTHING IS PREDICTABLE--SO INSTEAD OF CURING WENDY, THE HULK IS EMBROILED IN BATTLE WITH HIM...
IF YOU FREAKS WANT TO TANGLE WITH SOMEONE--
--WHY NOT TRY YOUR LUCK AGAINST--ME!

When the rampaging Hulk crossed the Canadian border, the **government sent Weapon X to confront the Hulk as Wolverine**. The resulting battle—one that also included the mystic Wendigo—ended with the Hulk triumphant over Wolverine and a long-standing enmity between the giant green monster and diminutive bestial man had been born. This confrontation—and **Wolverine's first appearance**—took place in ***Incredible Hulk #180-182* (1974)**.

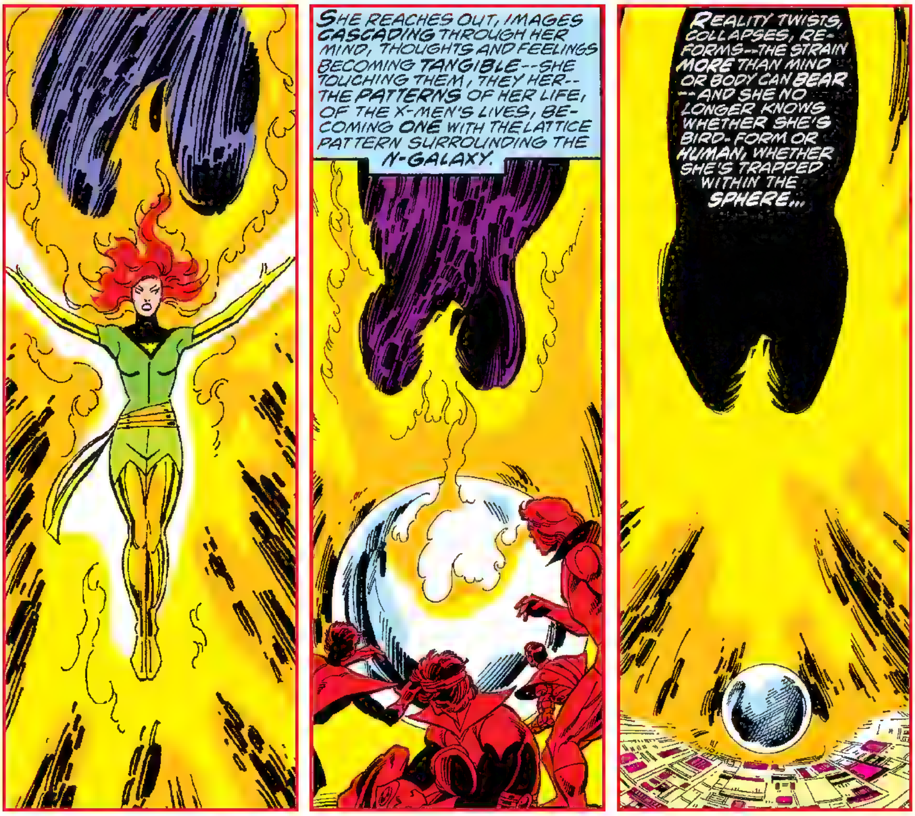

WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK THE SCHOOL HAD SEEMED A LATTER-DAY TOWER OF BABEL AT FIRST--BUT A TELEPATHIC CRASH COURSE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAD CLOSED THE COMMUNICATION GAP IN MERE MINUTES.
NOW PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER SITS SOMBERLY STUDYING HIS COLORFULLY-COSTUMED HOUSE-GUESTS--
--AND WHATEVER THOUGHTS HE MIGHT HAVE AT THIS POINT ARE HIS ALONE TO KNOW.
IN ALL MY LIFE, SUCH CLOTHING AS THIS I HAVE NEVER SEEN!
THE COSTUME IS BEAUTIFUL, AND THE FIT--PER-FECT! BUT HOW DID YOU...?
THE UNIFORMS ARE CONSTRUCTED FROM UNSTABLE MOLECULES, WHICH ADJUST THEMSELVES WHERE NECESSARY
I OBTAINED THEM FROM A MAN NAMED REED RICHARDS, AND I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL LEARN MORE OF HIM AND HIS FRIENDS LATER.
BUT RIGHT NOW...

When his original students went missing during a mission, **Charles Xavier recruited a diverse, international group of mutants as X-Men** to locate and rescue his first class of students; among these mutants was Wolverine, who shocked the Hudsons by accepting the offer and leaving for America. Following **Wolverine's defection to the X-Men**, James Hudson turned his Groundhog armor into a skintight battlesuit and reluctantly assumed command of Alpha Flight sometime before the Canadian government sent the team to retrieve Wolverine, who they believed was a Canadian asset. Despite the initial animosity between the two teams, they eventually grew to be great friends and allies. Wolverine's defection and Xavier's gathering of a new generation of X-Men took place in ***Giant-Size X-Men #1* (1975)**, and the first confrontation between the two teams occurred in ***X-Men #120-121* (1979)**.


PROLOGUE:
WELCOME TO THE LAST MOMENTS OF A YOUNG WOMAN'S LIFE.
HER NAME IS JEAN GREY.
FOR TWENTY MINUTES NOW, WHILE HER FELLOW X-MEN SIT HELPLESSLY IN THE SHIP'S RADIATION-PROOF LIFE-CELL, SHE HAS BEEN PILOTING THE STARCORE SPACE SHUTTLE TOWARDS EARTH THRU THE WORST SOLAR STORM IN LIVING MEMORY.


HEAR ME, X-MEN!
NO LONGER AM I THE WOMAN YOU KNEW!
I AM FIRE! AND LIFE INCARNATE! NOW AND FOREVER--
--I AM PHOENIX!

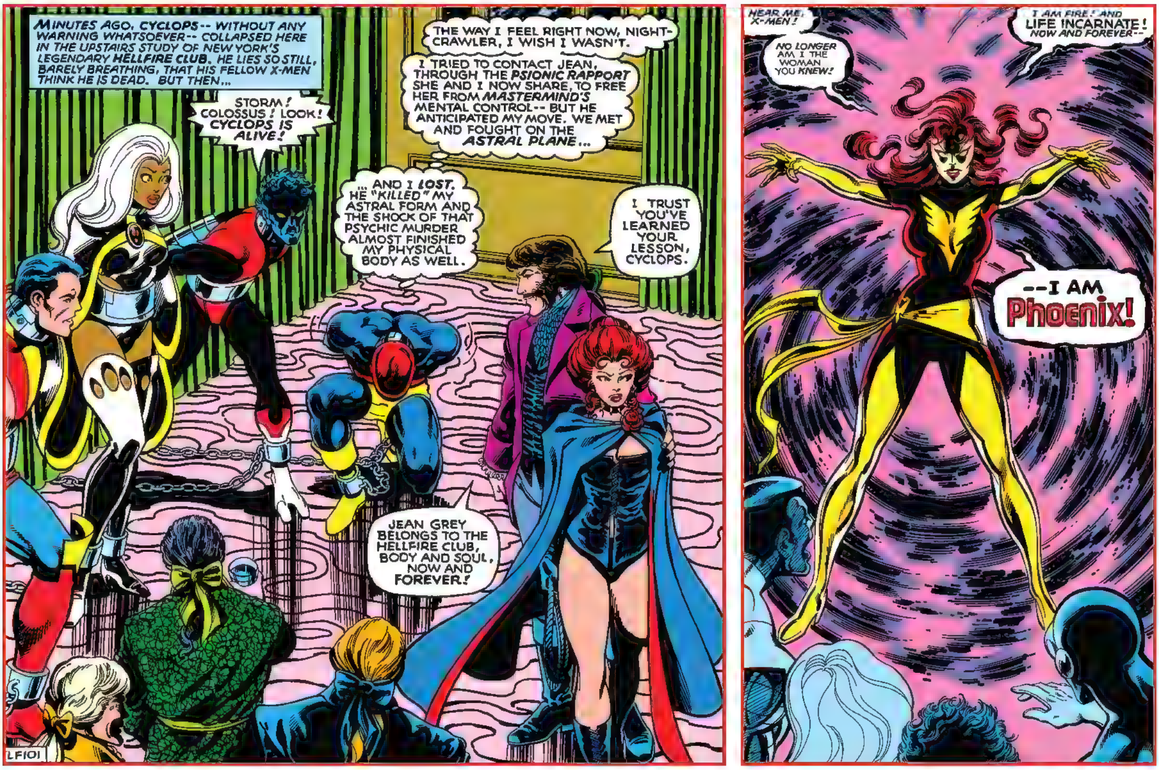
While returning from a mission in outer space, the X-Men were forced to use a damaged space shuttle to return to Earth. After telepathically absorbing a pilot's flight abilities, Grey used her telekinesis to seal a hole in the shuttle's radiation shielding, believing she was the only one who could safely pilot the shuttle home while the X-Men remained in protective chambers. When the shuttle crashed in New York's Jamaica Bay, the X-Men surfaced and were shocked when Grey burst forth from the waters, apparently reborn as the vastly powerful **Phoenix** due to the immense radiation to which she was exposed. Jean Grey's apparent rebirth as the Phoenix was chronicled in ***X-Men #100-101*** **(1976)**.


SHE REACHES OUT, IMAGES CASCADING THROUGH HER MIND, THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS BECOMING TANGIBLE--SHE TOUCHING THEM, THEY HER--THE PATTERNS OF HER LIFE, OF THE X-MEN'S LIVES, BECOMING ONE WITH THE LATTICE PATTERN SURROUNDING THE M-GALAXY.
REALITY TWISTS, COLLAPSES, REFORMS--THE STRAIN MORE THAN MIND OR BODY CAN BEAR--AND SHE NO LONGER KNOWS WHETHER SHE'S BIRD-FORM OR HUMAN, WHETHER SHE'S TRAPPED WITHIN THE SPHERE...

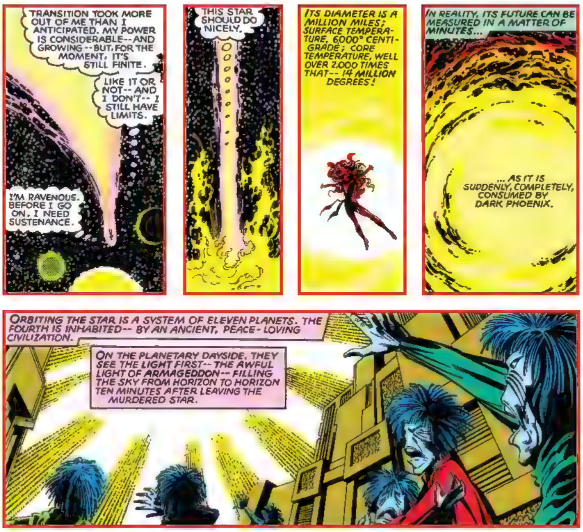
When an unintentional psychic connection between Xavier and an alien Shi'ar princess named Lilandra drew the X-Men into a rebellion amongst the Shi'ar royal family, Phoenix accompanied the team to outer space. The insane Shi'ar Emperor D'ken's intentions to misuse the ancient and powerful M'kraan Crystal (the "Crystal Heart of Reality") resulted in a violent confrontation between the X-Men, the Starjammers space pirates and the super-powered Shi'ar Imperial Guard, one that damaged the M'kraan Crystal and threatened to destroy all of reality. Buoyed by the life forces of the X-Men and Starjammers, **Phoenix cosmically healed the M'kraan Crystal**, single-handedly saving all of creation in a shocking act of immense power and godlike grandeur. ***X-Men #105*** and ***#107-108*** **(1977)**.

HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #4 ANNOTATIONS

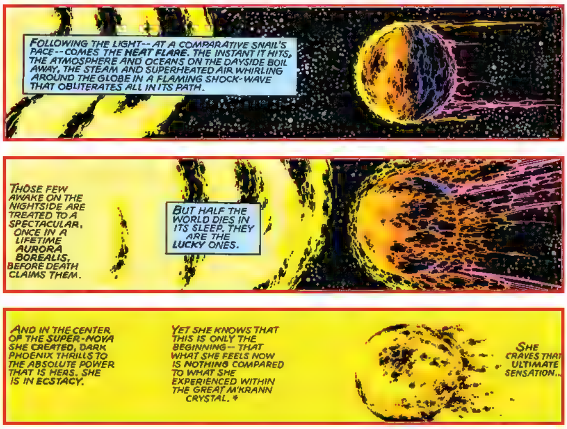
Design: Stacie Zucker

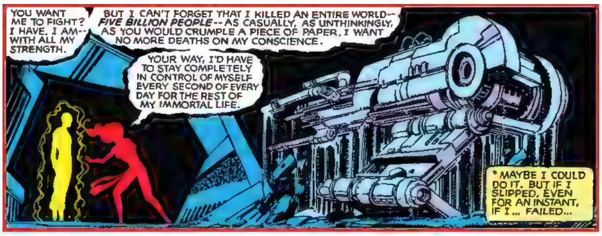

MINUTES AGO, CYCLOPS-- WITHOUT ANY WARNING WHATSOEVER-- COLLAPSED HERE IN THE UPSTAIRS STUDY OF NEW YORK'S LEGENDARY HELLFIRE CLUB. HE LIES SO STILL, BARELY BREATHING, THAT HIS FELLOW X-MEN THINK HE IS DEAD. BUT THEN...
STORM! COLOSSUS! LOOK! CYCLOPS IS ALIVE!
THE WAY I FEEL RIGHT NOW, NIGHTCRAWLER, I WISH I WASN'T.
I TRIED TO CONTACT JEAN, THROUGH THE PSIONIC RAPPORT SHE AND I NOW SHARE, TO FREE HER FROM MASTERMIND'S MENTAL CONTROL-- BUT HE ANTICIPATED MY MOVE. WE MET AND FOUGHT ON THE ASTRAL PLANE...
... AND I LOST. HE "KILLED" MY ASTRAL FORM AND THE SHOCK OF THAT PSYCHIC MURDER ALMOST FINISHED MY PHYSICAL BODY AS WELL.
I TRUST YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON, CYCLOPS.
JEAN GREY BELONGS TO THE HELLFIRE CLUB, BODY AND SOUL, NOW AND FOREVER!
HEAR ME, X-MEN!
NO LONGER AM I THE WOMAN YOU KNEW!
I AM FIRE! AND LIFE INCARNATE! NOW AND FOREVER--
--I AM Phoenix!

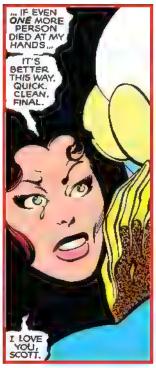
Believing the Phoenix to be Jean Grey, X-Men enemy Mastermind subjected it to numerous mental illusions, making it believe it was the Black Queen of the Hellfire Club, a group seeking world domination through accumulating wealth and utilizing mutant power. Being subjected to illusions where it was malevolent allowed Phoenix to succumb to its sinister side and be corrupted by its own power, becoming the evil Dark Phoenix.

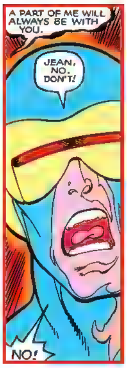

TRANSITION TOOK MORE OUT OF ME THAN I ANTICIPATED. MY POWER IS CONSIDERABLE--AND GROWING--BUT, FOR THE MOMENT, IT'S STILL FINITE.
LIKE IT OR NOT-- AND I DON'T-- I STILL HAVE LIMITS.
I'M RAVENOUS. BEFORE I GO ON, I NEED SUSTENANCE.
THIS STAR SHOULD DO NICELY.
ITS DIAMETER IS A MILLION MILES; SURFACE TEMPERATURE, 6000° CENTIGRADE; CORE TEMPERATURE, WELL OVER 2,000 TIMES THAT-- 14 MILLION DEGREES!
IN REALITY, ITS FUTURE CAN BE MEASURED IN A MATTER OF MINUTES...
... AS IT IS SUDDENLY, COMPLETELY, CONSUMED BY DARK PHOENIX.
ORBITING THE STAR IS A SYSTEM OF ELEVEN PLANETS. THE FOURTH IS INHABITED-- BY AN ANCIENT, PEACE-LOVING CIVILIZATION.
ON THE PLANETARY DAYSIDE, THEY SEE THE LIGHT FIRST-- THE AWFUL LIGHT OF ARMAGEDDON-- FILLING THE SKY FROM HORIZON TO HORIZON TEN MINUTES AFTER LEAVING THE MURDERED STAR.

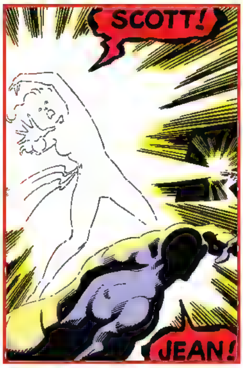
Seeking sustenance, Dark Phoenix consumed the energy of a star, which caused it to go supernova and destroy multiple planets, including the home of five billion members of the D'bari race. When confronted by a Shi'ar Empire battle cruiser, Dark Phoenix destroyed it as well.


FOLLOWING THE LIGHT-- AT A COMPARATIVE SNAIL'S PACE--COMES THE HEAT FLARE. THE INSTANT IT HITS, THE ATMOSPHERE AND OCEANS ON THE DAYSIDE BOIL AWAY, THE STEAM AND SUPERHEATED AIR WHIRLING AROUND THE GLOBE IN A FLAMING SHOCK-WAVE THAT OBLITERATES ALL IN ITS PATH.
THOSE FEW AWAKE ON THE NIGHTSIDE ARE TREATED TO A SPECTACULAR, ONCE IN A LIFETIME AURORA BOREALIS, BEFORE DEATH CLAIMS THEM.
BUT HALF THE WORLD DIES IN ITS SLEEP. THEY ARE THE LUCKY ONES.
AND IN THE CENTER OF THE SUPER-NOVA SHE CREATED, DARK PHOENIX THRILLS TO THE ABSOLUTE POWER THAT IS HERS. SHE IS IN ECSTACY.
YET SHE KNOWS THAT THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING-- THAT WHAT SHE FEELS NOW IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT SHE EXPERIENCED WITHIN THE GREAT M'KRANN CRYSTAL. *
SHE CRAVES THAT ULTIMATE SENSATION...

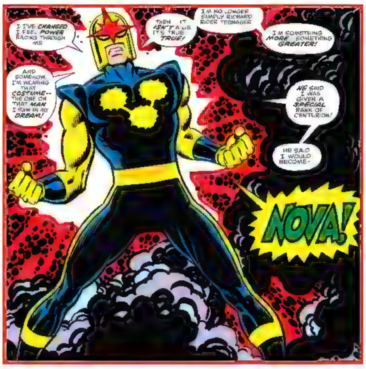

YOU WANT ME TO FIGHT? I HAVE. I AM--WITH ALL MY STRENGTH.
BUT I CAN'T FORGET THAT I KILLED AN ENTIRE WORLD--FIVE BILLION PEOPLE--AS CASUALLY, AS UNTHINKINGLY, AS YOU WOULD CRUMPLE A PIECE OF PAPER. I WANT NO MORE DEATHS ON MY CONSCIENCE.
YOUR WAY, I'D HAVE TO STAY COMPLETELY IN CONTROL OF MYSELF EVERY SECOND OF EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF MY IMMORTAL LIFE.
*MAYBE I COULD DO IT. BUT IF I SLIPPED, EVEN FOR AN INSTANT, IF I... FAILED...


...IF EVEN ONE MORE PERSON DIED AT MY HANDS...
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY. QUICK. CLEAN. FINAL.
I LOVE YOU, SCOTT.

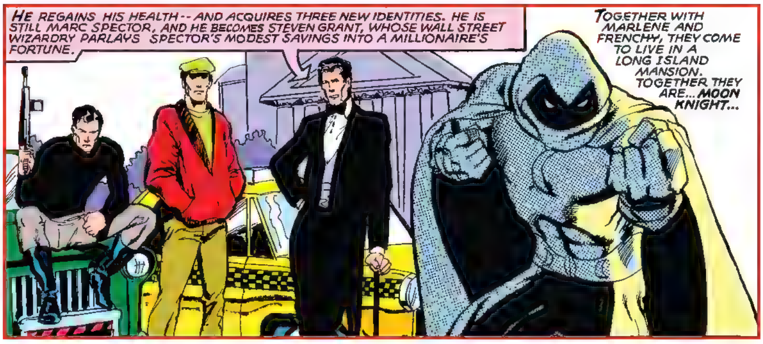

A PART OF ME WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.
JEAN, NO. DON'T!
NO!



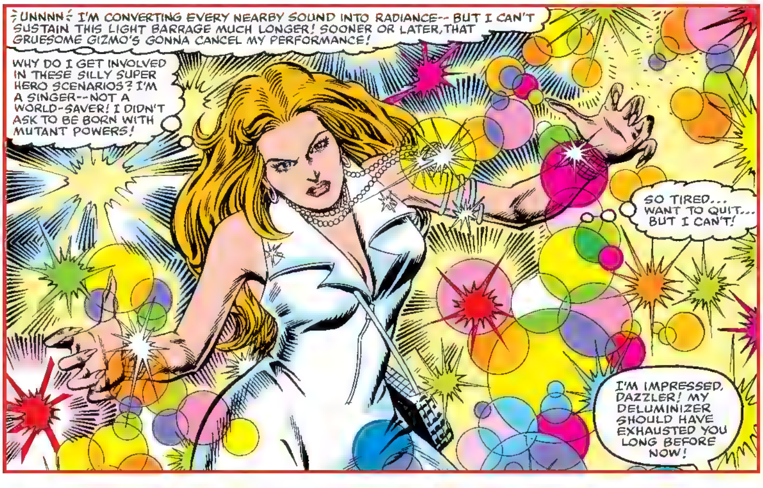
When it returned to Earth, Dark Phoenix was confronted by the X-Men and Charles Xavier, who telepathically empowered the portion of Jean Grey's consciousness and humanity within Dark Phoenix, which enabled it to reject its own cosmic power. Despite this, the Shi'ar Empire ruled Phoenix a cosmic threat and came to Earth to execute it. The X-Men invoked a Shi'ar custom of trial by combat to fight the ruling, but during the battle, the Dark Phoenix manifested. Grey's personality within Phoenix asserted itself again and, realizing it could never control its power or appetite, used a nearby weapon to commit cosmic suicide. Unaware the Phoenix was not the true Jean Grey, the X-Men—particularly Cyclops—were greatly devastated by the loss. **The saga of Dark Phoenix** took place in ***X-Men #129-137* (1980)**.


I-I'VE CHANGED I FEEL POWER RACING THROUGH ME
THEN IT ISN'T A LIE. IT'S TRUE TRUE!
I'M NO LONGER SIMPLY RICHARD RIDER TEENAGER
I'M SOMETHING MORE SOMETHING GREATER!
AND SOMEHOW, I'M WEARING THAT COSTUME--THE ONE ON THAT MAN I SAW IN MY DREAM!
HE SAID I WAS GIVEN A SPECIAL RANK OF CENTURION!
HE SAID I WOULD BECOME-
NOVA!

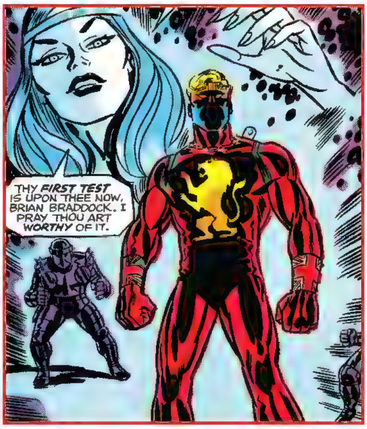
An average high schooler named Richard Rider was selected by a dying alien—a member of the cosmic peacekeeping Nova Corps—to receive his powers and become his replacement. Calling himself **Nova**, Rider quickly became a fixture in New York City super heroics by using his superhuman strength and superfast flight to fight crime wherever he could. Nova's first appearance and origin can be found in ***Nova #1* (1976)**.


HE REGAINS HIS HEALTH--AND ACQUIRES THREE NEW IDENTITIES. HE IS STILL MARC SPECTOR, AND HE BECOMES STEVEN GRANT, WHOSE WALL STREET WIZARDRY PARLAYS SPECTOR'S MODEST SAVINGS INTO A MILLIONAIRE'S FORTUNE.
TOGETHER WITH MARLENE AND FRENCHY, THEY COME TO LIVE IN A LONG ISLAND MANSION. TOGETHER THEY ARE... MOON KNIGHT...

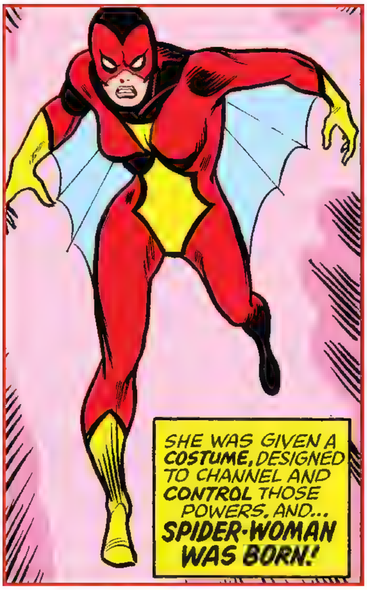
Materialistic mercenary Marc Spector had a change of heart after watching fellow merc Raoul Bushman needlessly slaughter a town. Spector attacked Bushman but was defeated and left for dead in a Sudanese desert. Dragging himself to a recently unearthed tomb, Spector apparently died at the foot of a statue of the moon god Khonshu but then arose, alive and believing he had been resurrected by Khonshu to serve as the moon's knight on Earth. Using his personal wealth, Spector created multiple identities to wage war on crime—millionaire Steven Grant, cab driver Jake Lockley and **Moon Knight**, a caped, hooded agent of vengeance. Maintaining the multiple identities damaged Spector's sanity and he began struggling with a dissociative identity disorder, which he continues to wrestle with in current times. Moon Knight first appeared in ***Werewolf by Night #32-33* (1975)** and his origin was uncovered in ***Moon Knight #1* (1980)**.


UNNNN! I'M CONVERTING EVERY NEARBY SOUND INTO RADIANCE--BUT I CAN'T SUSTAIN THIS LIGHT BARRAGE MUCH LONGER! SOONER OR LATER, THAT GRUESOME GIZMO'S GONNA CANCEL MY PERFORMANCE!
WHY DO I GET INVOLVED IN THESE SILLY SUPER HERO SCENARIOS? I'M A SINGER--NOT A WORLD-SAVER! I DIDN'T ASK TO BE BORN WITH MUTANT POWERS!
SO TIRED... WANT TO QUIT... BUT I CAN'T!
I'M IMPRESSED, DAZZLER! MY DELUMINIZER SHOULD HAVE EXHAUSTED YOU LONG BEFORE NOW!

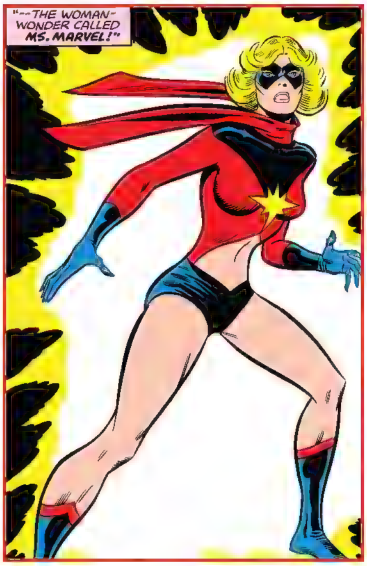
Gifted with a beautiful singing voice, Alison Blaire's mutant gift to create dazzling light shows manifested in junior high. After giving in to her demanding father's intense pressure to pursue a law degree all the way through college, Blaire finally rejected his control and decided to pursue a full-time music career as **Dazzler**; her corresponding light shows were explained away as being technologically based. In an early performance, Dazzler was attacked by members of the mutant-hunting Hellfire Club but protected by the X-Men who were also in attendance. Despite assisting the X-Men against the club, Dazzler refused to become a super hero, preferring to pursue stardom in music, a goal she accomplished to some success. However, this goal never fully came to fruition due to unintentional and often unwanted interactions with superhumans around the globe. Dazzler first appeared in ***X-Men #130* (1980)** and her origin was revealed in ***Dazzler #1* (1981)**.


THY FIRST TEST IS UPON THEE NOW, BRIAN BRADDOCK. I PRAY THOU ART WORTHY OF IT.

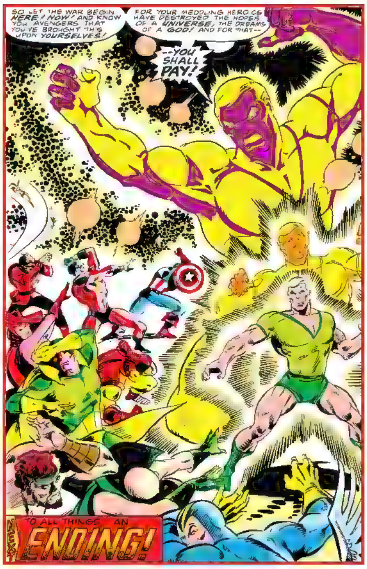
Foreseeing approaching threats to reality itself, Omniversal guardian Merlyn and his daughter Roma appeared to physicist Brian Braddock, fatally wounded while fleeing the murderous Reaver, and offered him a choice between the Sword of Might and Amulet of Right. Choosing the latter, Braddock became **Captain Britain**, and has fought to protect Great Britain and the world from anything that could do them harm. The Captain's origins were told in ***Captain Britain #1-2* (1976)** and ***Marvel Team-Up #65* (1978)**.


SHE WAS GIVEN A COSTUME, DESIGNED TO CHANNEL AND CONTROL THOSE POWERS, AND... SPIDER-WOMAN WAS BORN!

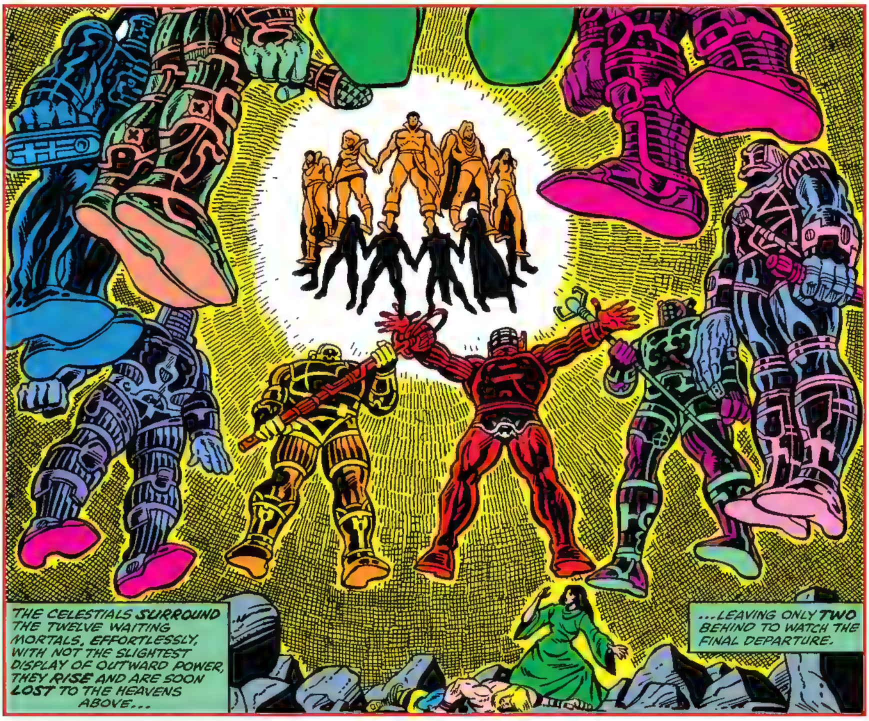
Jessica Drew, 7, became deathly ill in 1931 due to unintentional exposure to uranium used in her father's research. She was saved by a serum derived from spiders and by being placed in a genetic accelerator where she hibernated until modern times. Emerging as a teen, Drew learned she had gained spider-like superhuman powers due to the radiation and the serum. She soon fell in with the subversive group Hydra, but after learning the truth of their terrorist ways, she turned on them and eventually joined the peacekeeping agency S.H.I.E.L.D. and began a career of fighting crime as **Spider-Woman**. A chronological retelling of Spider-Woman's origins begins in the High Evolutionary backup stories in ***Punisher Annual #1*** **(1988)**, ***Silver Surfer Annual #1*** **(1988)**, ***New Mutants Annual #4*** **(1988)** and ***Web of Spider-Man Annual #4*** **(1988)**. Her origin story then continues in ***Spider-Woman #1*** **(1978)** and ***Marvel Spotlight #32*** **(1977)**.


"--THE WOMAN-WONDER CALLED MS. MARVEL!"

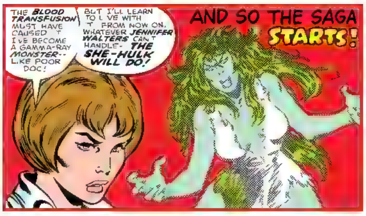
Fighter pilot and former spy Carol Danvers was serving as head of security at NASA's Kennedy Space Center when she first met extraterrestrial Kree hero Mar-Vell, who protected the innocent on Earth as Captain Marvel; the two became very close. When a battle between Mar-Vell and his archenemy Yon-Rogg resulted in an explosion of a Kree device called the Psyche-Magnitron—a device capable of turning imagination into reality—it was believed that Danvers' DNA was altered by the explosion, turning her into the superhuman **Ms. Marvel**. Many years later, Danvers learned her mother was Kree and that her DNA had been Kree all along. Danvers continues her high-flying war on crime to this day. Carol Danvers first appeared in ***Marvel Super-Heroes #13*** **(1967)**. She was exposed to the Psyche-Magnitron in ***Captain Marvel #18*** **(1969)** and became Ms. Marvel in ***Ms. Marvel #1*** **(1977)**. Her Kree heritage was revealed in ***Life of Captain Marvel #1-5*** **(2018-2019)**.


SO LET THE WAR BEGIN HERE! NOW! AND KNOW YOU AVENGERS THAT YOU'VE BROUGHT THIS UPON YOURSELVES!
FOR YOUR MEDDLING HEROICS HAVE DESTROYED THE HOPES OF A UNIVERSE, THE DREAMS OF A GOD! AND FOR THAT--
--YOU SHALL PAY!
NEXT
TO ALL THINGS AN ENDING!

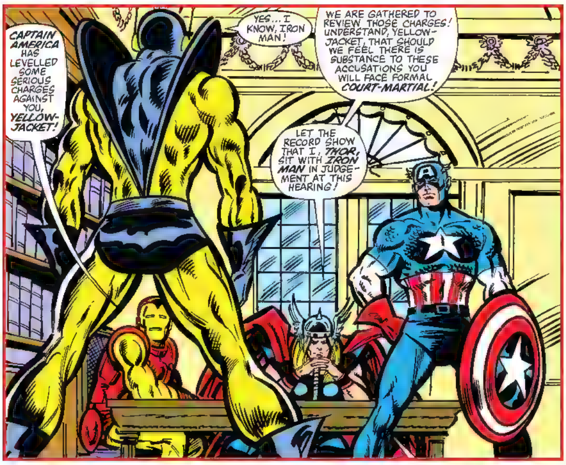
After stealing vast cosmic power from the planet-eater Galactus, the mad man-god **Korvac** left the 31st century to enact a plan of remaking the universe into a peaceful utopia under his supreme domination. The superhuman Guardians of the Galaxy followed him to the 20th century to stop him. Working together, the Guardians and the Avengers searched for Korvac tirelessly, ultimately giving their lives in a brutal battle against their immensely powerful foe. However, the violent confrontation shocked Korvac's love, Carina. Seeing Carina's horrified reaction, Korvac lost the will to fight, resurrected his slain foes and seemingly killed himself. The Avengers' battle against Korvac took place in ***Avengers #167-168*** **(1978)** and ***Avengers #170-177*** **(1978)**, his theft of Galactus' power was recounted in ***#175***. A ten-page epilogue was added to the tale in the collected edition titled ***Avengers: The Korvac Saga*** **(1991)**.


THE CELESTIALS SURROUND THE TWELVE WAITING MORTALS, EFFORTLESSLY, WITH NOT THE SLIGHTEST DISPLAY OF OUTWARD POWER, THEY RISE AND ARE SOON LOST TO THE HEAVENS ABOVE...
...LEAVING ONLY TWO BEHIND TO WATCH THE FINAL DEPARTURE.

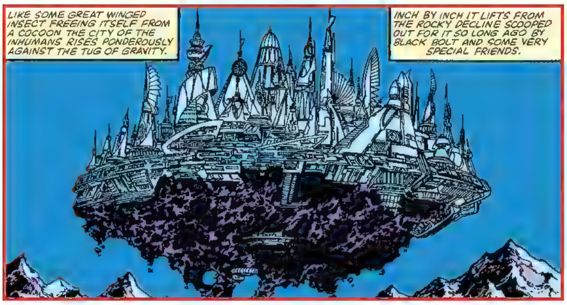
Thor #300 **(1980)** tells of when the **Celestial Fourth Host returned to Earth** to finally judge if humanity was worthy of continued existence. Many of Earth's pantheons had long prepared for war against the Celestials, but Earth goddess Gaea revealed a peaceful solution she and other goddesses had been working on for a millennium: they had scoured Earth looking for humans who represented the highest pinnacle of humanity, ensured their superhuman potential was awakened, and placed them in suspended animation until the time the Fourth Host arrived. When the gods' attacks on the Host failed upon their arrival, Gaea presented these twelve examples of humanity to Celestial leader Arishem the Judge. Pleased the seeds of their initial experiments had born superhuman specimens, Arishem found favor with humanity, and the Fourth Host departed Earth, letting it survive. The twelve specimens, collectively called the Young Gods, departed with the Celestials.


THE BLOOD TRANSFUSION MUST HAVE CAUSED IT. I'VE BECOME A GAMMA-RAY MONSTER--LIKE POOR DOC!
BUT I'LL LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT. FROM NOW ON, WHATEVER JENNIFER WALTERS CAN'T HANDLE-- THE SHE-HULK WILL DO!
AND SO THE SAGA STARTS!

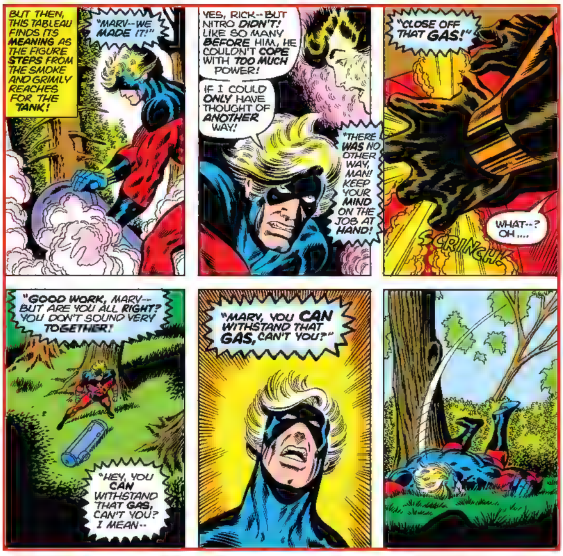
When lawyer Jennifer Walters was shot by mobsters she was working to prosecute, her cousin Bruce Banner (also the monstrous Hulk) had to give her a blood transfusion to save her life. Soon after, adrenaline transformed Walters into a female counterpart of the Hulk called "**She-Hulk**" by a mob goon. Over time, Walters came to thrive in her gamma form, joining the Avengers and Fantastic Four in addition to fighting crime as a lawyer. She-Hulk's first appearance and origin is in ***Savage She-Hulk #1* (1980)**.

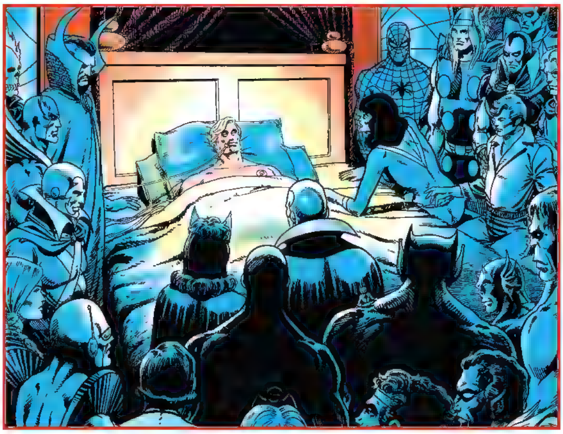

CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS LEVELLED SOME SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST YOU, YELLOW-JACKET!
YES... I KNOW, IRON MAN!
WE ARE GATHERED TO REVIEW THOSE CHARGES! UNDERSTAND, YELLOW-JACKET, THAT SHOULD WE FEEL THERE IS SUBSTANCE TO THESE ACCUSATIONS YOU WILL FACE FORMAL COURT-MARTIAL!
LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT I, THOR, SIT WITH IRON MAN IN JUDGE-MENT AT THIS HEARING!

Eager to prove himself to the Avengers, Yellowjacket (Henry Pym) fired upon a villain who had stopped fighting. The team charged him with misconduct and placed him on probation until a hearing could be held, which triggered his latest mental breakdown. Pym built a robot to attack the hearing so he could shut it down and appear to be a hero. When the Wasp discovered this, Pym struck her and demanded she not reveal his plans. When the robot attacked, Pym was overwhelmed until the Wasp deactivated it. Yellowjacket left the team in disgrace. In the midst of this, Pym's recurring foe Egghead manipulated events to frame Pym for treason. Egghead's Masters of Evil subsequently broke Pym out of prison, making him look even guiltier. Pym appeared to work with Egghead and the Masters but secretly built a machine that allowed him to defeat the Masters single-handedly. The Avengers soon arrived with proof of Pym's innocence and invited him back to the team, but he declined so he could focus on his scientific research instead. The storyline of **Hank Pym's most infamous breakdown** begins in ***Avengers #212* (1981)** and concludes in ***Avengers #230* (1983)**.

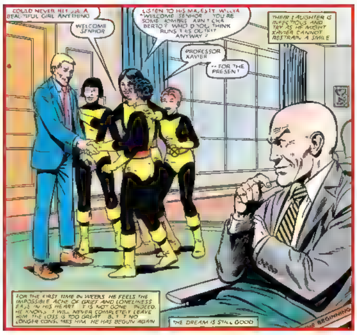

LIKE SOME GREAT WINGED INSECT FREEING ITSELF FROM A COCOON THE CITY OF THE INHUMANS RISES PONDEROUSLY AGAINST THE TUG OF GRAVITY.
INCH BY INCH IT LIFTS FROM THE ROCKY DECLINE SCOOPED OUT FOR IT SO LONG AGO BY BLACK BOLT AND SOME VERY SPECIAL FRIENDS.

When the Inhumans began to suffer illnesses due to pollution in Earth's environment, Inhuman King Black Bolt and the Fantastic Four's Mister Fantastic worked together to move the Inhumans' entire city, Attilan, to the Blue Area of the Moon, an abandoned Kree outpost with a breathable atmosphere. When Earth's leaders learned of this, the Avengers were sent to Attilan to confirm they were not a threat to Earth. After stopping the mad Inhuman Maximus' plan to start a war between Earth and the Inhumans, the Avengers returned to Earth to profess the Inhumans' offer of peace and friendship. **Attilan moves to the moon** in ***Fantastic Four #240* (1982)**; the repercussions are felt in ***Avengers Annual #12* (1984)**.

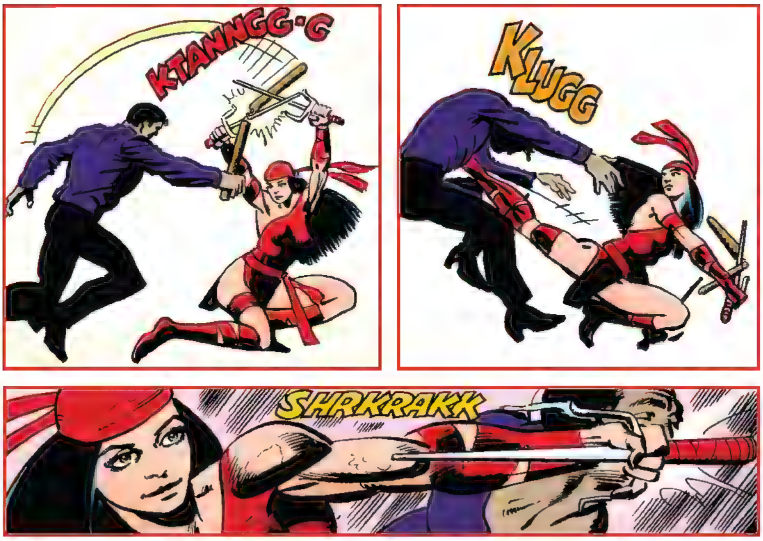

BUT THEN, THIS TABLEAU FINDS ITS MEANING AS THE FIGURE STEPS FROM THE SMOKE AND GRIMLY REACHES FOR THE TANK!
"MARV--WE MADE IT!"
YES, RICK--BUT NITRO DIDN'T! LIKE SO MANY BEFORE HIM, HE COULDN'T COPE WITH TOO MUCH POWER!
IF I COULD ONLY HAVE THOUGHT OF ANOTHER WAY!
"THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY, MAN! KEEP YOUR MIND ON THE JOB AT HAND!
"CLOSE OFF THAT GAS!"
SCRINCH!
WHAT--? OH....
"GOOD WORK, MARV--BUT ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU DON'T SOUND VERY TOGETHER!
"HEY, YOU CAN WITHSTAND THAT GAS, CAN'T YOU? I MEAN--
"MARV, YOU CAN WITHSTAND THAT GAS, CAN'T YOU?"

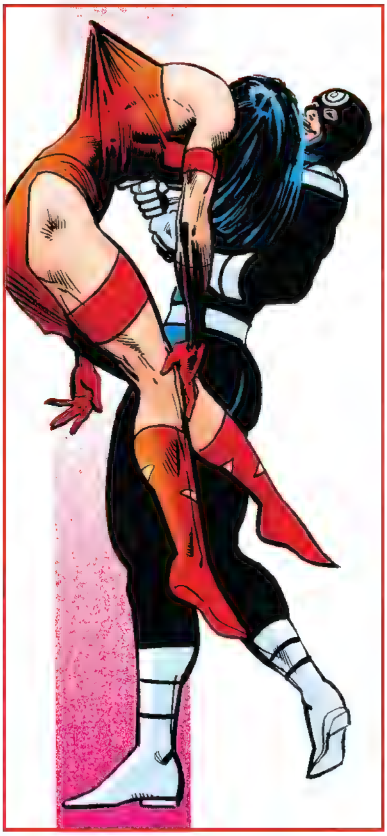


Following a battle with the explosive Nitro, Captain Marvel was forced to close a canister of an experimental nerve gas to prevent it from harming others. While initially believed to have recovered without any damage, the Captain learned a number of years later he had developed a cancer that was incurable. Though initially shocked by the way he was going to die, Mar-Vell came to peace with his fate and died surrounded by friends and loved ones he had met throughout his life. The battle with Nitro and exposure to the nerve gas occurs in ***Captain Marvel #34* (1974)**. The revelation that this exposure caused cancer—and **Captain Marvel's death**—takes place in ***Marvel Graphic Novel #1: The Death of Captain Marvel*** (1982).

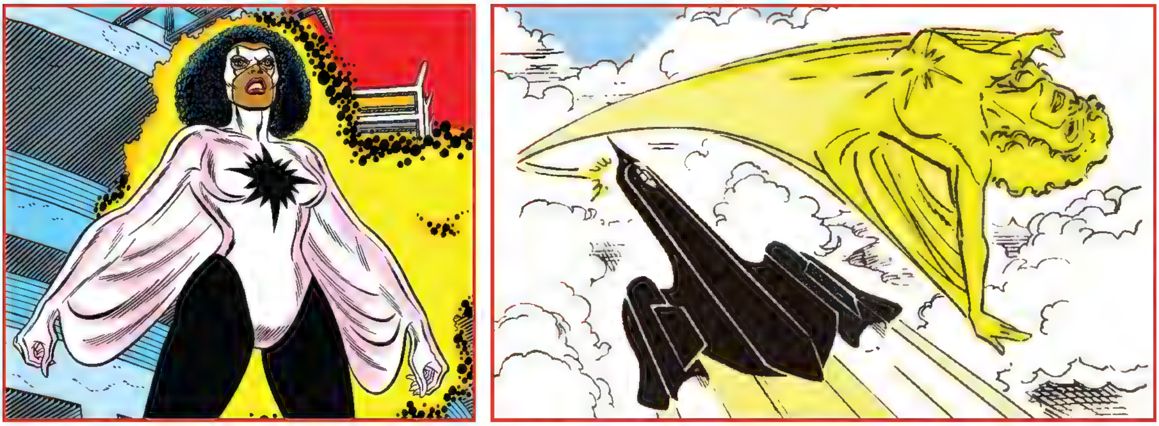

COULD NEVER REFUSE A BEAUTIFUL GIRL ANYTHING
WELCOME SENHOR
LISTEN TO HIS MAJESTY, WILLYA "WELCOME SENHOR." YOU'RE SOME KOMBRE, AIN'TCHA BERTO? WHO D'YOU THINK RUNS THIS OUTFIT ANYWAY?
PROFESSOR XAVIER
--FOR THE PRESENT
THEIR LAUGHTER IS INFECTIOUS AND TRY AS HE MIGHT XAVIER CANNOT RESTRAIN A SMILE
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN WEEKS HE FEELS THE IMPOSSIBLE ACHE OF GRIEF AND LONELINESS EASE IN HIS HEART. IT IS NOT GONE. INDEED, HE KNOWS IT WILL NEVER COMPLETELY LEAVE HIM. THE LOSS IS TOO GREAT. BUT IT NO LONGER CONSUMES HIM. HE HAS BEGUN AGAIN
THE DREAM IS STILL GOOD
THE BEGINNING

During a period of time when Charles Xavier believed the X-Men were dead, he reluctantly agreed to take on a number of young mutants who needed his help despite his vowing to never put himself into that position again. Among these students were the destructive Cannonball, the illusion-casting Psyche, the psychic Karma, the superstrong Sunspot and the werewolf-like Wolfsbane. Eventually it was discovered that Xavier was secretly influenced into gathering the students to serve as hosts for the parasitic alien Brood by the Brood Queen that had been secretly implanted in Xavier. When the X-Men returned from an extended period in space, they helped defeat the Brood Queen and end her plans to prey on this young class of students. The five youths who would become the first class of the **New Mutants** are gathered in ***Marvel Graphic Novel #4: The New Mutants* (1982)**. Xavier's possession unfolds in ***Uncanny X-Men #167* (1983)**.



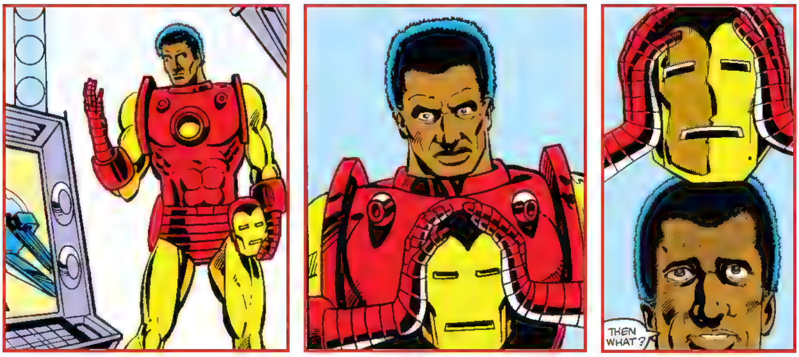


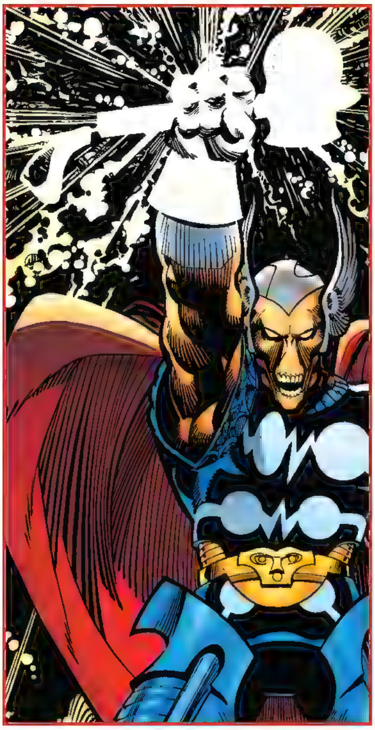
Elektra Natchios first met Matt Murdock in college, the two sharing an intense, passionate love affair. When her father was murdered, Elektra began a journey down a dark path, using her lifetime training in martial arts to become an assassin of the highest caliber, eventually joining the ranks of ninja cult the Hand. Her path ultimately brought her back to America, where she came into conflict with Matt Murdock, who was now the street-level super hero Daredevil, and began working for the Kingpin of Crime. When she was killed in battle with Bullseye, another mercenary who wanted to be the Kingpin's chief assassin, Daredevil was devastated. However, when the Hand sought to resurrect Elektra using ancient mystical methods they used to maintain their ranks, Daredevil interrupted the ceremony and interjected his spirit into the process. Elektra was resurrected, the evil taint of the Hand removed from her spirit as a result of Daredevil's involvement. Elektra first appears in ***Daredevil #168*** **(1981)** and is killed in ***Daredevil #181*** **(1982)**. Her resurrection takes place in ***Daredevil #190*** **(1983)**.

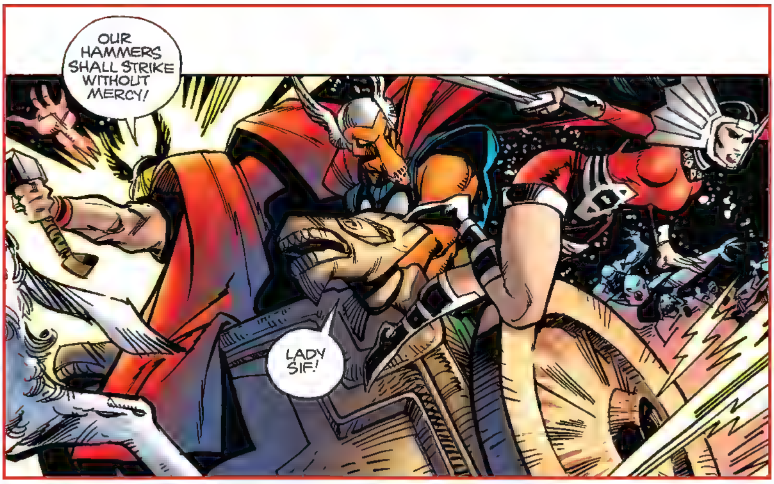


New Orleans harbor patrol officer Monica Rambeau agreed to help a family friend who had created an otherdimensional energy-tapping device that was going to be weaponized by a South American dictator. To prevent this, Rambeau smashed her fists into the device, causing an explosion that mutated her. Now able to turn her body into any energy on the electromagnetic spectrum, Rambeau quit the harbor patrol to pursue protecting the innocent as the fast-as-light **Captain Marvel**. While attempting to get help from the Fantastic Four's Mister Fantastic in controlling her abilities, Captain Marvel came into contact with the Avengers, who took her on as a probationary member in training. Before long, Rambeau became a full member in good standing. Monica Rambeau's first appearance and origin are told in ***Amazing Spider-Man Annual #16*** **(1982)** with a follow-up in ***Avengers #227*** **(1982)**.

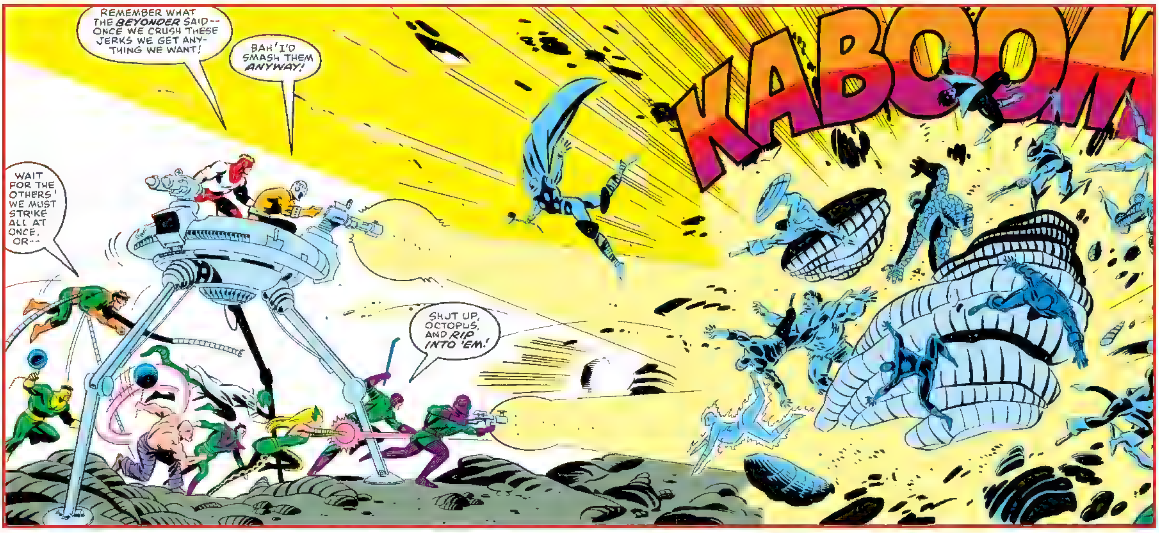
Succumbing to alcoholism, Tony Stark went into battle as Iron Man while intoxicated and suffered a humiliating defeat from a minor villain. After going to his close friend Jim Rhodes for help recharging his armor, Stark revealed his identity to Rhodes before passing out. Rhodes donned the armor and completed the battle against the villain then continued serving as Iron Man for an extended period while Stark actively pursued a hedonistic lifestyle. **Jim Rhodes becomes Iron Man** in ***Iron Man #169*** **(1983)** until Stark's eventual recovery allows him to take back the role in ***Iron Man #200*** **(1985)**.

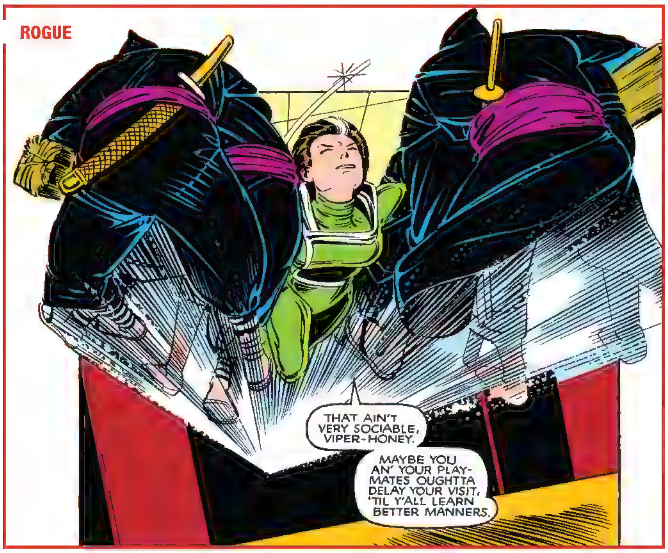




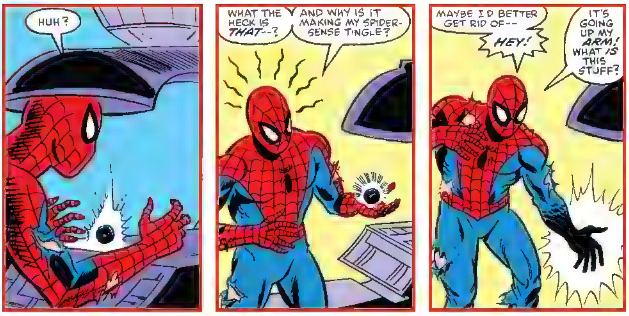

OUR HAMMERS SHALL STRIKE WITHOUT MERCY!
LADY SIF!

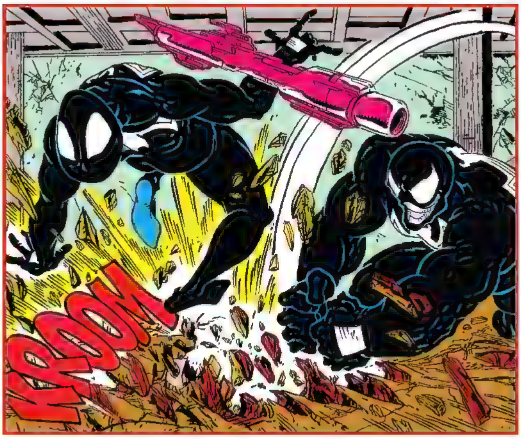
Beta Ray Bill was the member of the Korbinite race selected to serve as their champion, undergoing biogenetic cybernetic enhancements that made him phenomenally powerful. While a fleet carrying his race was on the run from demons that had destroyed the Korbinites' galaxy, Bill scouted ahead. When Bill was detected by Earth peacekeeping agency S.H.I.E.L.D., Thor was sent to discern if there was a threat to Earth, coming to blows with Bill. During the battle, Bill picked up Thor's hammer, Mjolnir, proving himself worthy of the power of Thor. Ultimately, Asgardian All-Father Odin had another enchanted hammer created for Bill. Thor and Bill became allies in fighting the demons that were pursuing the Korbinites then worked together to battle other foes, eventually coming to regard each other as brothers; Bill and Asgardian warrior Sif also became very close. Beta Ray Bill's first appearance is recorded in ***Thor #337-340*** **(1983)**.

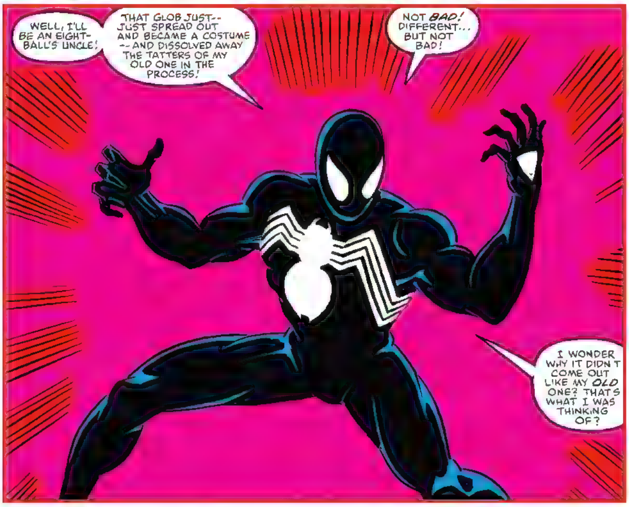

REMEMBER WHAT THE BEYONDER SAID-- ONCE WE CRUSH THESE JERKS WE GET ANYTHING WE WANT!
BAH! I'D SMASH THEM ANYWAY!
WAIT FOR THE OTHERS! WE MUST STRIKE ALL AT ONCE, OR--
SHUT UP, OCTOPUS, AND RIP INTO 'EM!
KABOOM


ROGUE
THAT AIN'T VERY SOCIABLE, VIPER-HONEY.
MAYBE YOU AN' YOUR PLAYMATES OUGHTTA DELAY YOUR VISIT, 'TIL Y'ALL LEARN BETTER MANNERS.

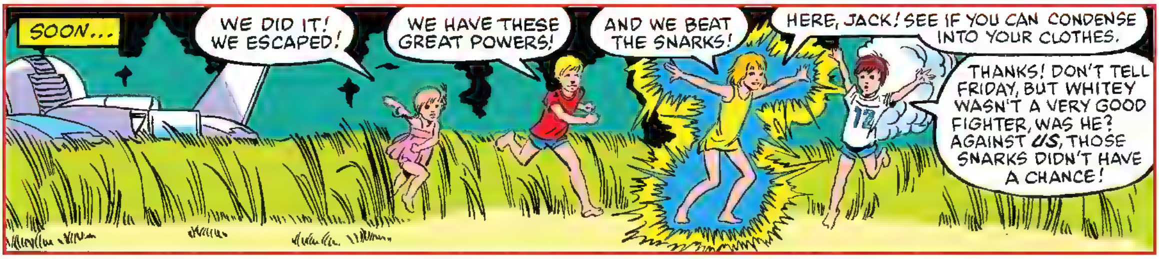
Seeking to understand the concept of desire, the Beyonder, an immature cosmic being, abducted costumed heroes and villains from Earth and pitted them against one another on a planet he created. Promised all they desired should they slay their foes, these gathered heroes and villains battled one another violently, suffering losses on both sides until Doctor Doom managed to steal the Beyonder's powers and slay the heroes. However, Doom—his subconscious manipulated by the Beyonder—unintentionally enabled the heroes' resurrection and brought about his defeat. At the war's end, the traumatized heroes and villains returned to an Earth that remained unaware of their secret war. Among the combatants was Rogue, a former member of the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, who had previously used her mutant ability to absorb the powers and psyche of others through contact to fight against the Avengers and X-Men. After reforming, Rogue fought alongside the X-Men, quickly proving herself a valuable ally both during the war and in the years after. The **Secret Wars** unfolded in ***Marvel Super Heroes Secret Wars #1-12*** **(1984)**. Rogue first appeared in ***Avengers Annual #10*** **(1981)** and joined the X-Men in ***Uncanny X-Men #171*** **(1983)**.


HUH?
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT--?
AND WHY IS IT MAKING MY SPIDER-SENSE TINGLE?
MAYBE I'D BETTER GET RID OF--
HEY!
IT'S GOING UP MY ARM! WHAT IS THIS STUFF?

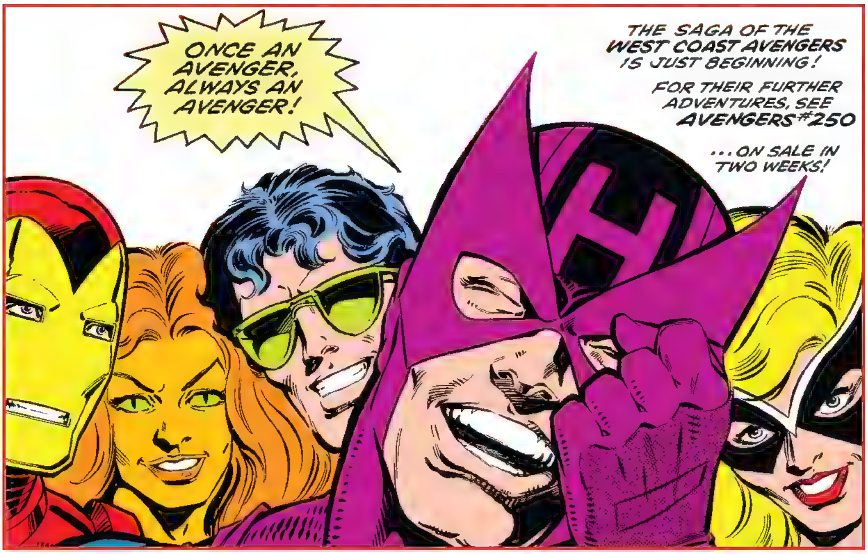



WELL, I'LL BE AN EIGHT-BALL'S UNCLE!
THAT GLOB JUST-- JUST SPREAD OUT AND BECAME A COSTUME --AND DISSOLVED AWAY THE TATTERS OF MY OLD ONE IN THE PROCESS!
NOT BAD! DIFFERENT... BUT NOT BAD!
I WONDER WHY IT DIDN'T COME OUT LIKE MY OLD ONE? THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING OF?

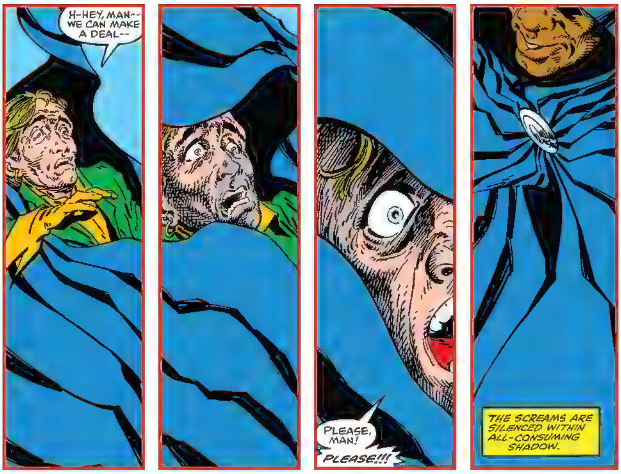
During the secret war, Spider-Man sought to repair his damaged costume but instead found a machine that gave him a stylized black costume that responded to his mental commands. Sometime after returning to Earth, Spider-Man learned the costume was actually a symbiotic alien that sought to permanently bond with him. The alien was forcibly removed with the help of the Fantastic Four. After the jilted alien escaped, it located Eddie Brock, a former reporter who shared the alien's hatred of Spider-Man, and bonded with him, becoming the violent, bloodthirsty **Venom**, one of Spider-Man's most dangerous enemies. Spider-Man obtained the black costume in ***Marvel Super Heroes Secret Wars #8*** **(1984)**, but it first appeared in ***Amazing Spider-Man #252*** **(1984)**. Spider-Man learned the true nature of this costume in ***Amazing Spider-Man #258*** **(1984)**. Venom's first storyline can be found in ***Amazing Spider-Man #298-300*** **(1988)**.

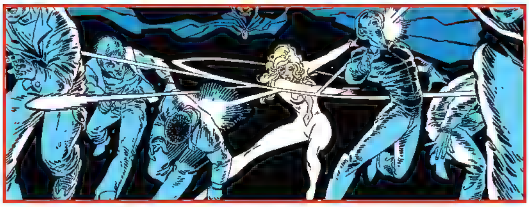

SOON...
WE DID IT! WE ESCAPED!
WE HAVE THESE GREAT POWERS!
AND WE BEAT THE SNARKS!
HERE, JACK! SEE IF YOU CAN CONDENSE INTO YOUR CLOTHES.
THANKS! DON'T TELL FRIDAY, BUT WHITEY WASN'T A VERY GOOD FIGHTER, WAS HE? AGAINST US, THOSE SNARKS DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE!
12

When scientist James Power developed a matter/antimatter conversion process as an energy source, he drew the attention of two extraterrestrial species. The "Snarks" coveted its destructive potential, while Kymellian Aelfyre Whitemane, whose race had unintentionally destroyed their own homeworld using the same process, sought to warn him. The Snarks abducted James and his wife and fatally injured "Whitey," who bequeathed his powers to James' four young children—Alex, Julie, Jack and Katie—so they could rescue their parents, stop the Snarks, and prevent their father's invention from accidentally destroying Earth. With their new powers, the kids became **Power Pack** and had numerous adventures among Earth's superhumans. Their origin can be found in ***Power Pack #1-5*** **(1984)**.

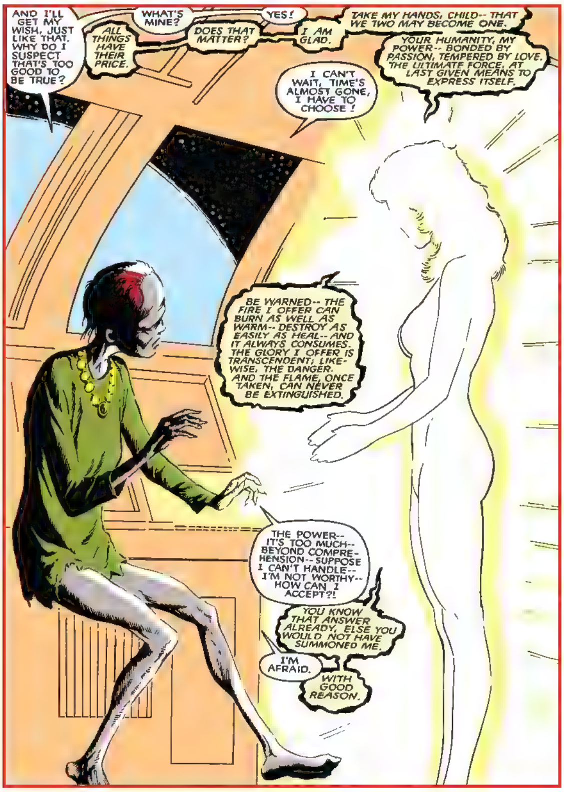

ONCE AN AVENGER, ALWAYS AN AVENGER!
THE SAGA OF THE WEST COAST AVENGERS IS JUST BEGINNING!
FOR THEIR FURTHER ADVENTURES, SEE AVENGERS #250
...ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS!

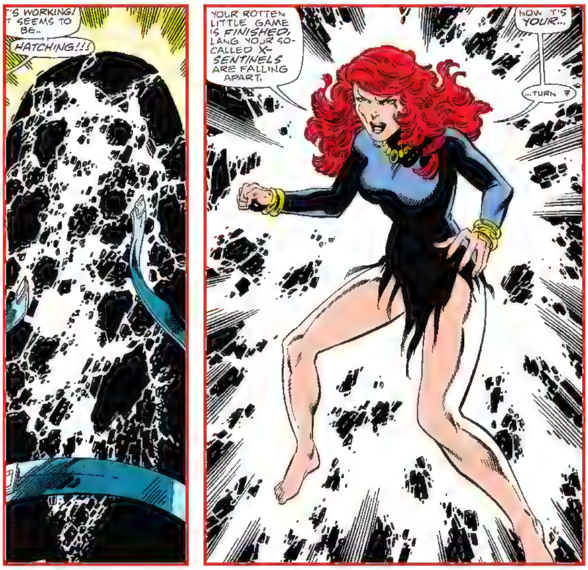
The briefly malfunctioning synthezoid Vision assembled a second branch of the Avengers in California. Though initially established as a plot to benevolently take over Earth, it became a long-standing force for good. This team, led by Hawkeye, initially comprised ex-Avengers Tigra and Wonder Man and new recruits Mockingbird, Hawkeye's wife, and James Rhodes as Iron Man. Tony Stark would soon reclaim the Iron Man role and take a position within these **West Coast Avengers**. The first mention of the West Coast branch concept was in ***Avengers #243*** **(1984)**, and the team's first appearance was in ***West Coast Avengers #1-4*** **(1984)**. Shown here is a gathering of the initial team.


H-HEY, MAN--
WE CAN MAKE
A DEAL--
PLEASE, MAN!
PLEASE!!!
THE SCREAMS ARE SILENCED WITHIN ALL-CONSUMING SHADOW.

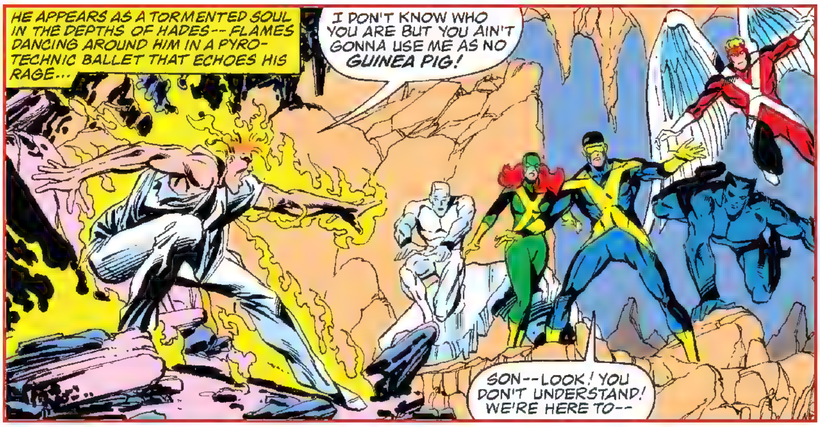


Runaways Tyrone Johnson and Tandy Bowen were used as guinea pigs in experiments performed by mob chemist Simon Marshall, who was testing synthetic narcotics his employers hoped would be a cheaper alternative to heroin. The only two runaways to survive the experiments, Johnson and Bowen, were mutated by the drugs, Johnson becoming a living portal to the eternal night of the Darkforce dimension and Bowen becoming a generator of pure light. As **Cloak & Dagger**, the duo began a war on drugs and crime that continues to this day. The duo first appeared in ***Spectacular Spider-Man #64*** **(1982)** and their full origin was told in ***Cloak & Dagger #4*** **(1984)**.

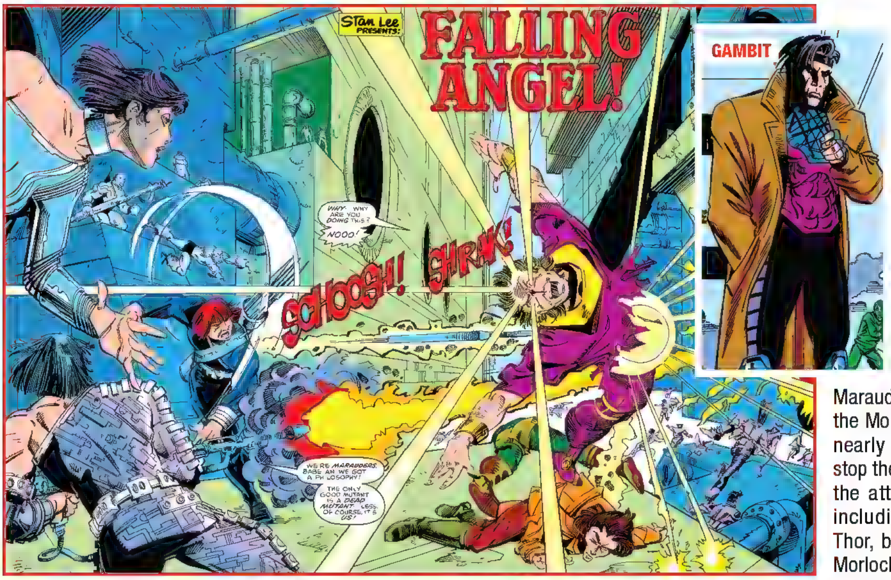

AND I'LL GET MY WISH, JUST LIKE THAT. WHY DO I SUSPECT THAT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?
ALL THINGS HAVE THEIR PRICE.
WHAT'S MINE?
DOES THAT MATTER?
YES!
I AM GLAD.
TAKE MY HANDS, CHILD-- THAT WE TWO MAY BECOME ONE.
YOUR HUMANITY, MY POWER-- BONDED BY PASSION, TEMPERED BY LOVE. THE ULTIMATE FORCE, AT LAST GIVEN MEANS TO EXPRESS ITSELF.
I CAN'T WAIT, TIME'S ALMOST GONE, I HAVE TO CHOOSE!
BE WARNED-- THE FIRE I OFFER CAN BURN AS WELL AS WARM-- DESTROY AS EASILY AS HEAL-- AND IT ALWAYS CONSUMES. THE GLORY I OFFER IS TRANSCENDENT; LIKEWISE, THE DANGER. AND THE FLAME, ONCE TAKEN, CAN NEVER BE EXTINGUISHED.
THE POWER-- IT'S TOO MUCH-- BEYOND COMPREHENSION-- SUPPOSE I CAN'T HANDLE-- I'M NOT WORTHY-- HOW CAN I ACCEPT?!
YOU KNOW THAT ANSWER ALREADY, ELSE YOU WOULD NOT HAVE SUMMONED ME.
I'M AFRAID.
WITH GOOD REASON.


'S WORKING! T SEEMS TO BE..
HATCHING!!!
YOUR ROTTEN LITTLE GAME IS FINISHED, LANG YOUR SO-CALLED X-SENTINELS ARE FALLING APART.
NOW T'S YOUR...
...TURN ?

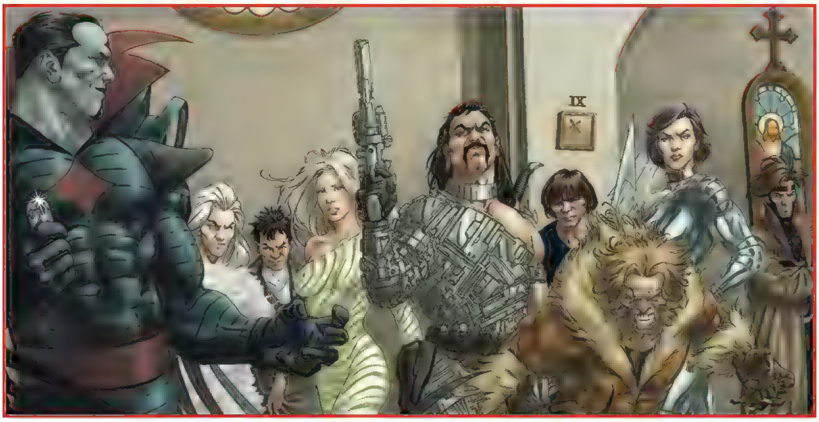
When the Avengers discovered a strange cocoon beneath the waters of New York's Jamaica Bay, they recruited the Fantastic Four's Reed Richards to uncover its secrets. Eventually the gathered heroes freed the true **Jean Grey** from within and learned the Phoenix Force placed her there to heal from extreme radiation exposure while it impersonated her as the X-Men's Phoenix. The discovery occurred in ***Avengers #263*** **(1986)**, while Jean Grey was freed in ***Fantastic Four #286*** **(1986)**. The tale of her survival is expanded in ***Classic X-Men #8*** **(1986)**.

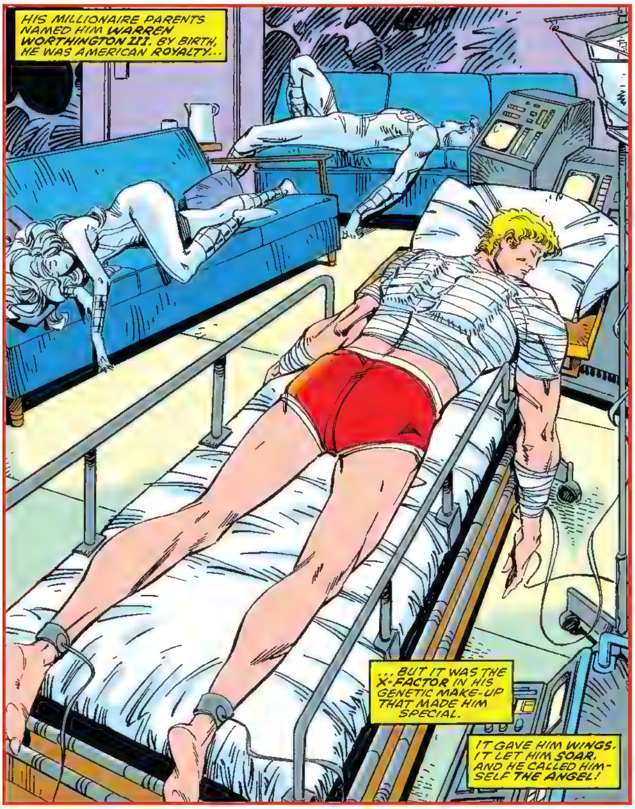

HE APPEARS AS A TORMENTED SOUL IN THE DEPTHS OF HADES-- FLAMES DANCING AROUND HIM IN A PYROTECHNIC BALLET THAT ECHOES HIS RAGE...
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE BUT YOU AIN'T GONNA USE ME AS NO GUINEA PIG!
SON--LOOK! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! WE'RE HERE TO--

Jean Grey's disorientation after emerging from stasis did not last long, though. With the help of the Avengers and Fantastic Four, she reached out to her closest friends, the original X-Men (Angel, Iceman, Beast and Cyclops), who were shocked and ecstatic to learn their beloved friend was alive. Angel's friend, public relations expert Cameron Hodge, helped them form X-Factor—a group that publicly appeared to hunt mutant menaces for money while secretly protecting young mutants and mentoring them in controlling their powers. Despite its good intentions, this plan stoked the fires of society's hatred and mistrust of mutantkind, accomplishing the goal of the secretly rabid anti-mutant Hodge. Through all of this, a wedge between former lovers Grey and Cyclops grew, especially when Grey learned Cyclops had married Madelyne Pryor while Grey was believed dead. All parties remained unaware Pryor was actually a clone of Grey. Mad geneticist Mister Sinister created Pryor as a plot to obtain the genetic result of procreation between Cyclops and Jean Grey's DNA. The reunion of the original X-Men and **the formation of X-Factor** occurred in ***X-Factor #1*** **(1986)**.

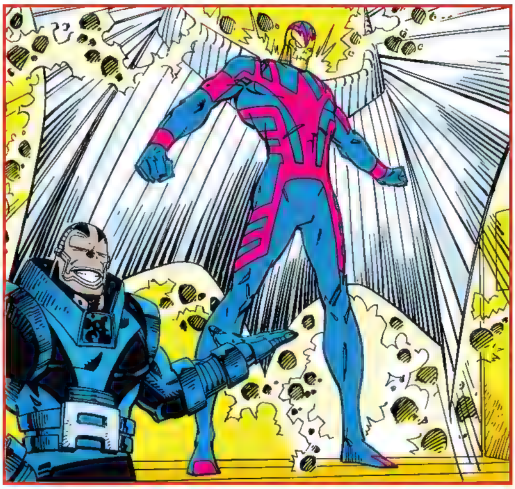

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
FALLING ANGEL!
GAMBIT
WHY-- WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? NOOO!
SCHOOSH!!
GIRK!
WE'RE MARAUDERS, BABE. AN' WE GOT A PH'LOSOPHY!
THE ONLY GOOD MUTANT IS A DEAD MUTANT. 'LESS, OF COURSE, IT'S US!

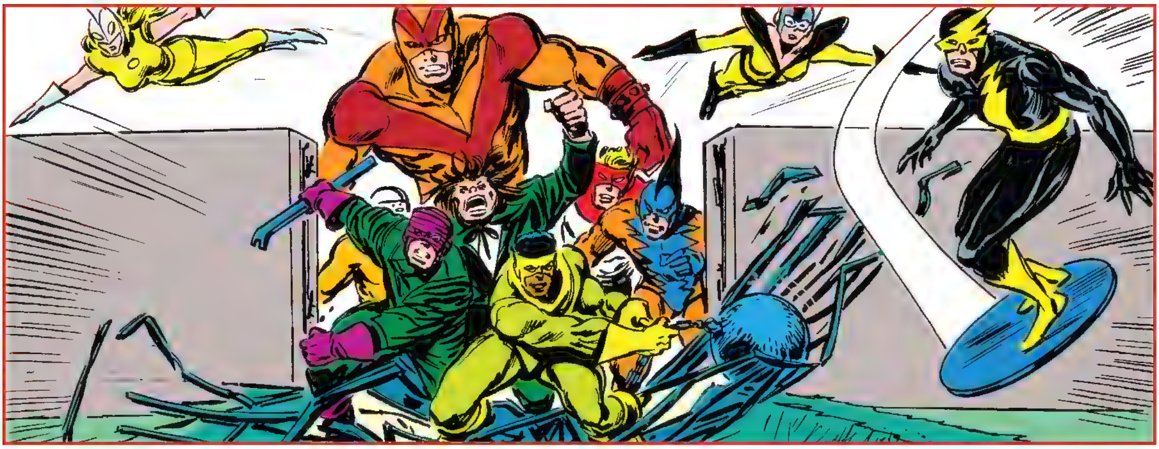
Convinced the Morlocks—a community of mutants living within abandoned tunnels beneath Manhattan—were the results of a bastardization of his own genetic research, Mister Sinister set out to eliminate them. Sinister sent master thief Gambit (Remy LeBeau) to gather a group of cutthroat mutant mercenaries together to accomplish this task but did not reveal their mission to Gambit. Indebted to Sinister for helping him control his own mutant power, Gambit stayed with the Marauders until they began slaughtering the Morlocks. The Marauder Sabretooth nearly killed Gambit when he tried to stop them. This **mutant massacre** drew the attention of a number of heroes, including the X-Men, X-Factor and Thor, but despite their assistance, the Morlocks were slaughtered in countless numbers. X-Men Nightcrawler, Colossus and Shadowcat (Kitty Pryde) and Angel of X-Factor were all gravely wounded; Cameron Hodge manipulated hospital staff to needlessly amputate Angel's wings. Gambit would later go on to join the X-Men; his complicity in the mutant massacre wasn't revealed until much later, causing a rift between him and the team. The Mutant Massacre unfolded in ***Thor #373-374*** **(1986)**, ***Uncanny X-Men #210-213*** **(1986)** and ***X-Factor #9-11*** **(1986)**. Gambit's involvement in the gathering of the Marauders was revealed in ***Uncanny X-Men #350*** **(1997)**; his first appearances were in ***Uncanny X-Men #266*** **(1990)** and ***Uncanny X-Men Annual #14*** **(1990)**.

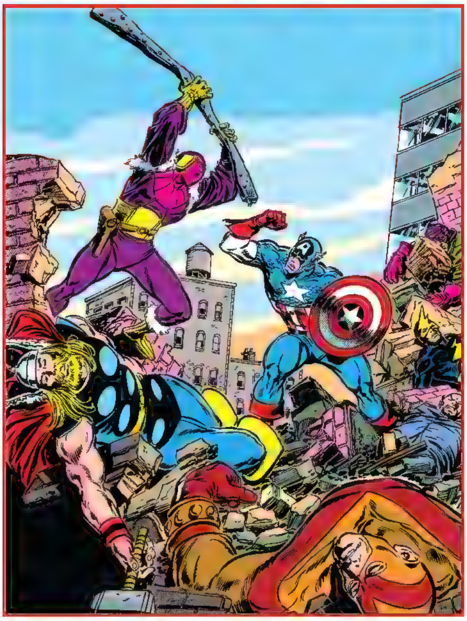


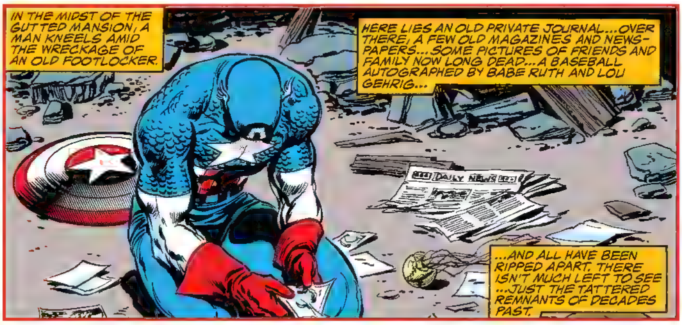

HIS MILLIONAIRE PARENTS NAMED HIM WARREN WORTHINGTON III. BY BIRTH, HE WAS AMERICAN ROYALTY...
...BUT IT WAS THE X-FACTOR IN HIS GENETIC MAKE-UP THAT MADE HIM SPECIAL.
IT GAVE HIM WINGS. IT LET HIM SOAR, AND HE CALLED HIMSELF THE ANGEL!

Utterly despondent from the loss of his wings, Angel became deeply depressed. When Cameron Hodge sabotaged Angel's aircraft to create the appearance of suicide, Angel was secretly saved by ancient mutant conqueror Apocalypse. He altered Angel through genetics and technology into a blue-skinned, metal-winged death machine. Despite this, Angel eventually rejected Apocalypse's programming and rejoined his teammates as **Archangel**; his teammates were able to help him gradually reclaim his personality and temper his newfound bloodthirsty tendencies. The amputation of Angel's wings and his supposed suicide took place in ***X-Factor #14-15*** **(1986)**; his survival and transformation into Archangel were fully revealed in ***X-Factor #24-25*** **(1987)**.

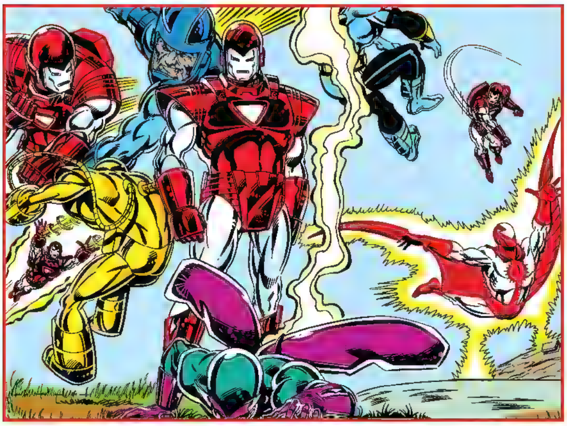




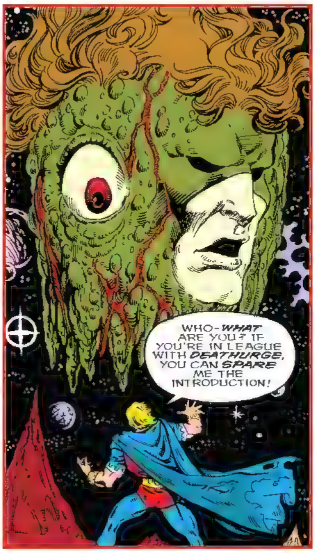



IN THE MIDST OF THE GUTTED MANSION, A MAN KNEELS AMID THE WRECKAGE OF AN OLD FOOTLOCKER.
HERE LIES AN OLD PRIVATE JOURNAL...OVER THERE, A FEW OLD MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS...SOME PICTURES OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY NOW LONG DEAD...A BASEBALL AUTOGRAPHED BY BABE RUTH AND LOU GEHRIG...
DAILY NEWS
...AND ALL HAVE BEEN RIPPED APART. THERE ISN'T MUCH LEFT TO SEE ...JUST THE TATTERED REMNANTS OF DECADES PAST.

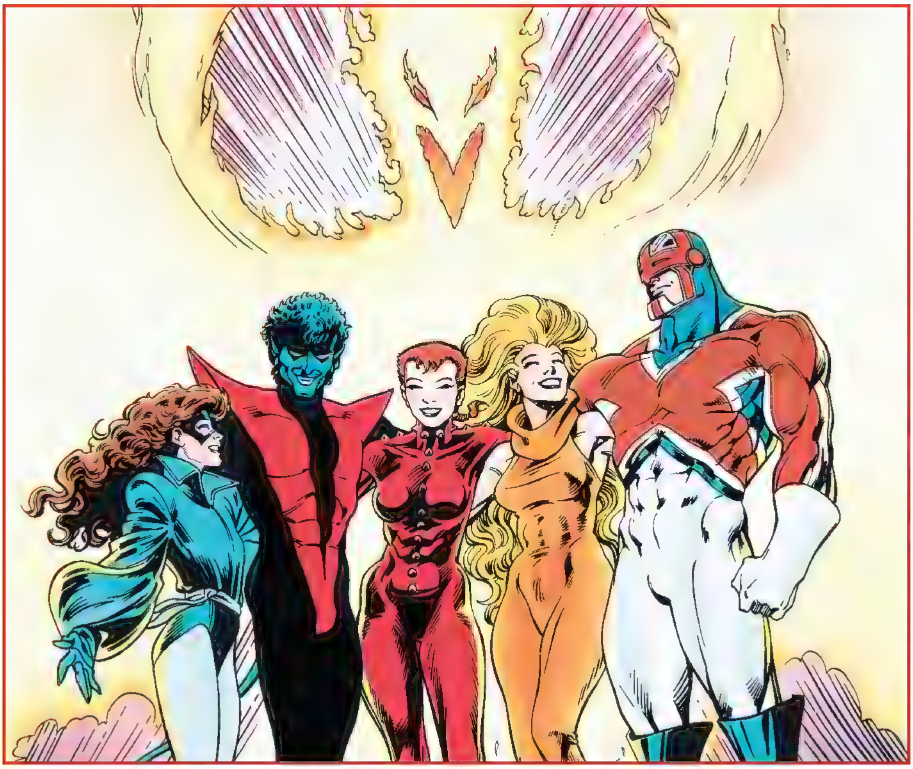
Blaming Captain America for the death of his father—World War II Nazi scientist Heinrich Zemo—Helmut Zemo gathered a superhuman army as the latest incarnation of the Masters of Evil and plotted to destroy everything Captain America cared for. Through guile and brute force, the Masters separated and defeated the Avengers and laid **siege to Avengers Mansion**, destroying much of it; among the items destroyed were Captain America's few keepsakes from his childhood in the 1920s and '30s. Despite facing their greatest defeat to date, the Avengers eventually rallied behind team chairperson the Wasp, overpowered the Masters and took back the Mansion. Loyal team butler Edwin Jarvis was tortured and horribly beaten by the villains, requiring a leave of absence before returning to duty. The siege of Avengers Mansion was recorded in ***Avengers #270-271*** and ***#273-277*** **(1986-1987)**, while an epilogue focused on Edwin Jarvis can be found in ***Avengers #280*** **(1987)**.



When Tony Stark learned his closely guarded technological designs had been pilfered and distributed among various armor-wearing beings, he compiled a list of possible users (a list that initially included Doctor Doom, who was soon ruled out) and set out to reclaim his work. Desperate to prevent his life's work from harming others, Stark as Iron Man utilized brutal tactics to destroy any technology based on his designs, whether used by friend or foe. His actions brought him into conflict with Steve Rogers, leading to a long rift between the friends. After accomplishing his goals, Stark staged the death of Iron Man, leading the world to believe the brutality against other armored beings was the result of his errant bodyguard, a man now dead. Stark maintained this fiction for a time but ultimately revealed his identity to his Avengers teammates once more. Tony Stark's **Armor Wars** took place in ***Iron Man #225-231*** **(1987-1988)**.

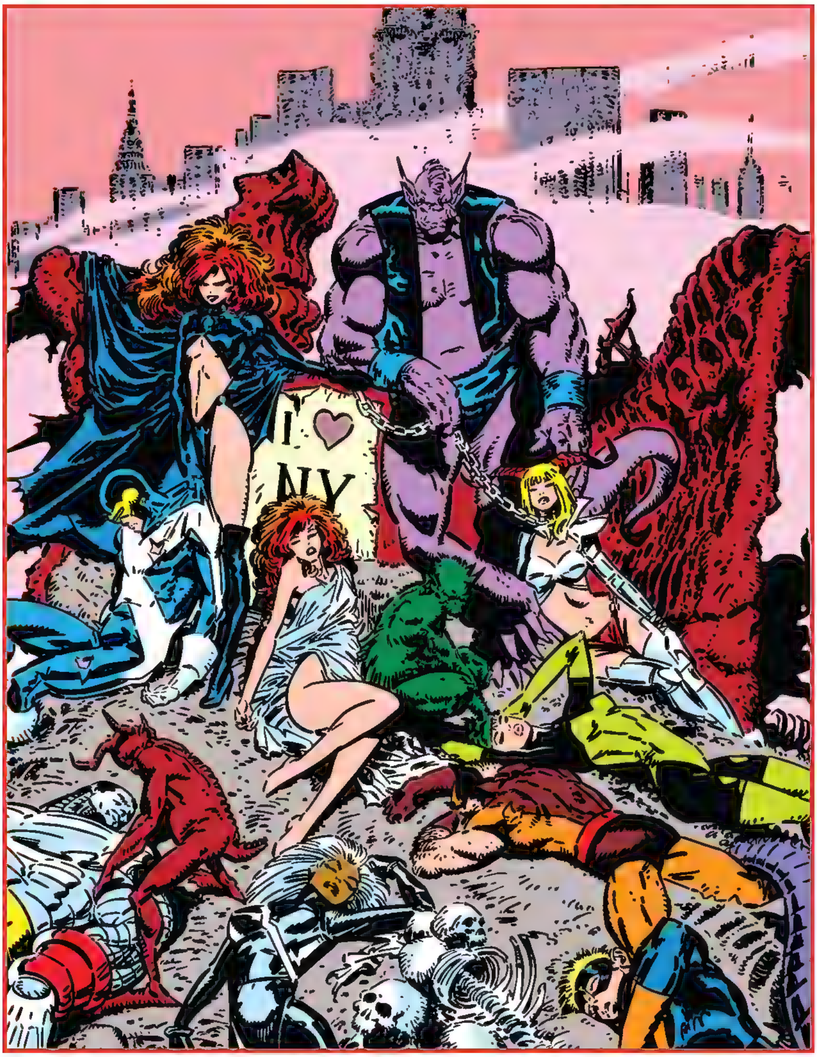

WHO-WHAT ARE YOU? IF YOU'RE IN LEAGUE WITH DEATHURGE, YOU CAN SPARE ME THE INTRODUCTION!

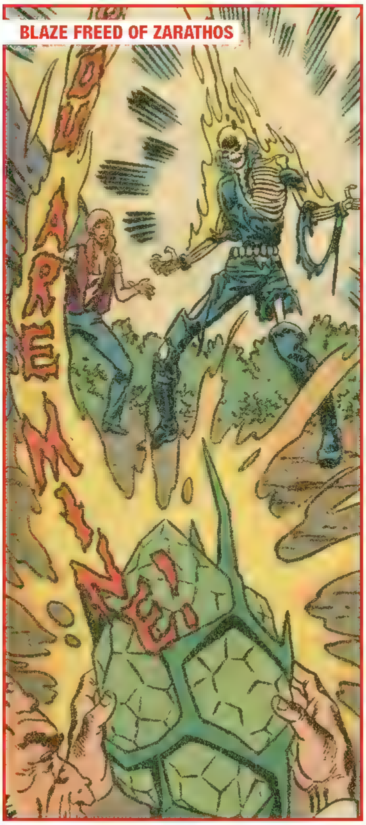
Mild-mannered Wendell Vaughn did not possess the killer instinct required to be a top-level field operative for S.H.I.E.L.D. and was relegated to menial desk jobs or security positions. One assignment saw him guarding a pair of ancient extraterrestrial bracelets (the Quantum Bands). Among the scientists investigating the ornaments was Vaughn's distant and cold father, Gilbert. When subversive organization A.I.M. (Advanced Idea Mechanics) attempted to steal the bracelets, Vaughn was forced to put them on to fight off the theft. Vaughn learned that he had been selected by ancient cosmic being Eon to **become the Protector of the Universe**, the latest in a centuries-long line of courageous and intelligent beings granted vast power through the Quantum Bands. With assistance from his father, Vaughn gradually settled into the role and, as Quasar, became strong enough to defeat numerous cosmic threats and join the Avengers as a member in good standing. Quasar's origin unfolded in ***Quasar #1-2*** **(1989)**; his confrontation with the cosmic threat he was groomed to defeat took place in ***Quasar #18-27*** **(1991)**; Vaughn first appeared as Marvel Man in ***Captain America #217*** **(1978)**.



While recovering in Europe from the severe wounds suffered during the Mutant Massacre, Kitty Pryde and Nightcrawler were devastated to learn the X-Men were killed battling a powerful adversary. Though traumatized by not being with their comrades, the two heroes joined forces with friends and fellow heroes Captain Britain, Meggan and Phoenix (an alternate-reality daughter of Cyclops and Jean Grey) to continue the peacekeeping mission of the X-Men as Excalibur. Sometime later, the world would learn the X-Men had been secretly resurrected by cosmic beings and remained underground to prevent harm coming to those they loved. Excalibur would remain together for an extended period of time, working in tandem with the X-Men to protect the innocent. **Excalibur was forged** in ***Excalibur Special Edition #1*** **(1987)**.

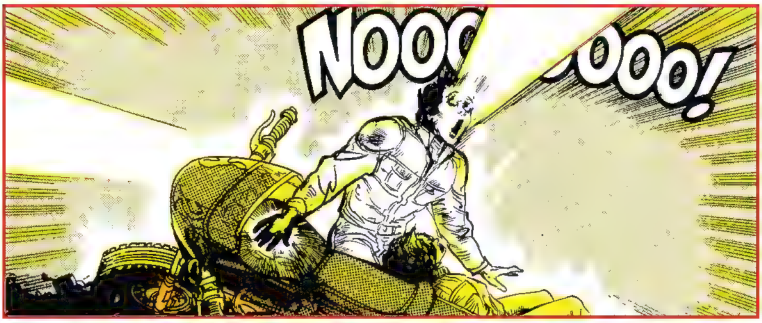
A **demonic invasion of Manhattan** was born from two tragedies suffered by women close to the X-Men. The first: Child sister of X-Man Colossus, Illyana Rasputin, was kidnapped by the demonic sorcerer Belasco and grew to her teens in his horrific limbo. Emerging from a mystical portal as a teenager seconds after being taken, Illyana struggled to control the dark magic she had gained as Belasco's apprentice as well as the dark impulses she now had. The second was Madelyne Pryor, the secret clone of Jean Grey created by mad geneticist Mister Sinister. When Jean Grey was believed killed, Sinister manipulated events to put Pryor in contact with Scott Summers (Cyclops) to have them produce a child Sinister suspected would be vastly powerful. When Cyclops learned Jean Grey was alive, he abandoned his now-wife Pryor and newborn son, enraging Pryor. Demons subtly (and oftentimes not so subtly) manipulated Illyana and Pryor to use their vast powers to help limbo manifest in Manhattan, leading to a 24-hour period of intense demonic activity and hell on Earth. Through the efforts of the X-Men, X-Factor, the New Mutants and others, Pryor's plan to sacrifice her son was prevented and Illyana's corruption and transformation into the demonic Darkchild was stopped. The final battles with the women resulted in Pryor's unintentional death while trying to kill her enemies and the demonic Rasputin replaced by a child version of herself the same age she was when kidnapped by Belasco. The main storyline for Inferno took place in ***New Mutants #71-73*** **(1988)**, ***Uncanny X-Men #240-243*** **(1988)**, ***X-Factor #36-39*** **(1988)** and ***X-Terminators #1-4*** **(1988)**.

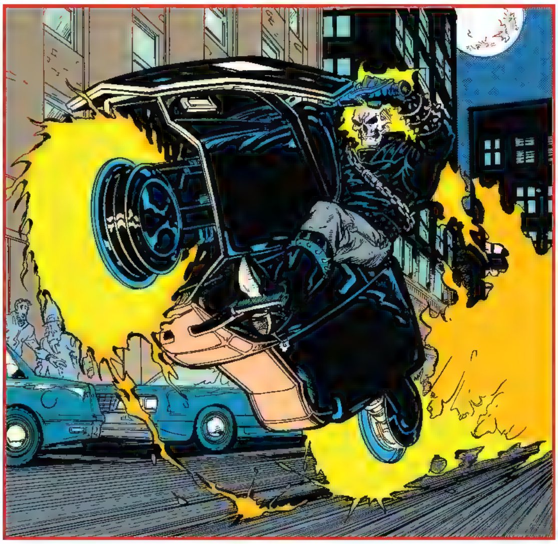



YOU ARE MINE!

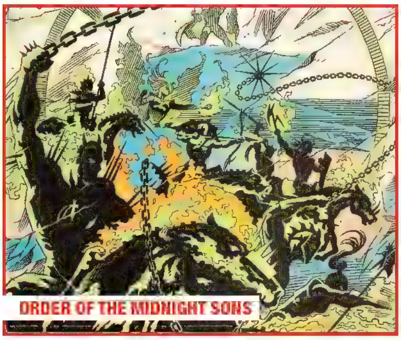
BLAZE FREED OF ZARATHOS

A struggle for dominance between Johnny Blaze and Zarathos in ***Ghost Rider* #80-81 (1983)** ultimately resulted in Zarathos being imprisoned within the Crystal of Souls, freeing Blaze from the curse of being the Ghost Rider. He was finally able to marry and start a family.

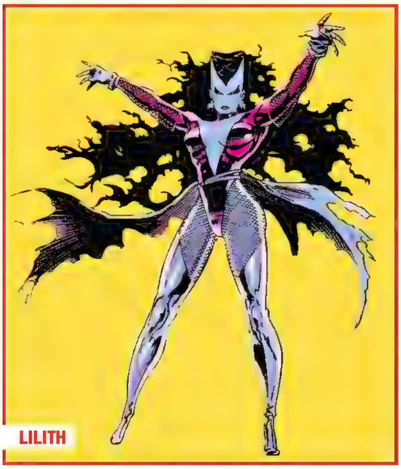




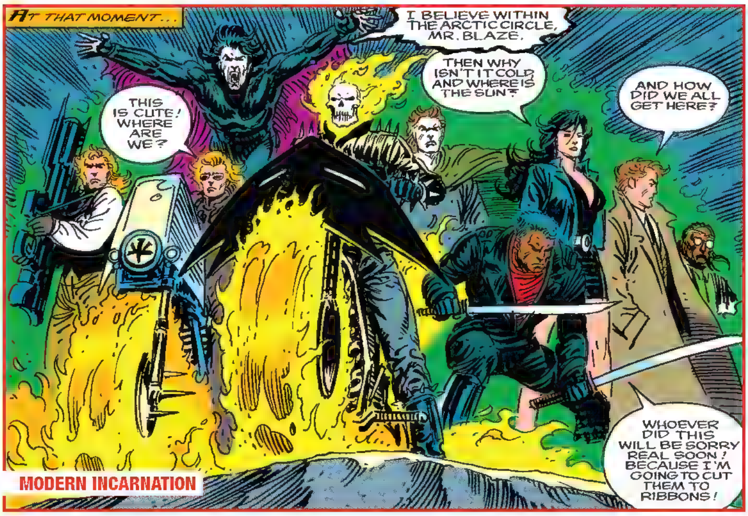
Years after being freed from the curse of being Ghost Rider, Johnny Blaze learned that another Ghost Rider had become active in and around New York City. Fearing Zarathos had escaped, Blaze pursued him, and he ultimately learned that a young man named **Danny Ketch had become the latest Ghost Rider**. Though initially hostile toward each other, the two became allies once Blaze realized the entity within Ketch was not Zarathos. Blaze served as Ketch's protector from that point on. Sometime later, the two would learn they were brothers and that Ketch was bonded with the spirit of Noble Kale, the first in their family history cursed to be a flaming, skeletal spirit of vengeance. Danny Ketch first appeared in ***Ghost Rider* #1 (1990)**. ***Ghost Rider/Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance* #16 (1993)** revealed Ketch and Blaze were brothers. ***Ghost Rider* #77 (1996)** revealed that Danny Ketch was bonded with Noble Kale.



ORDER OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS

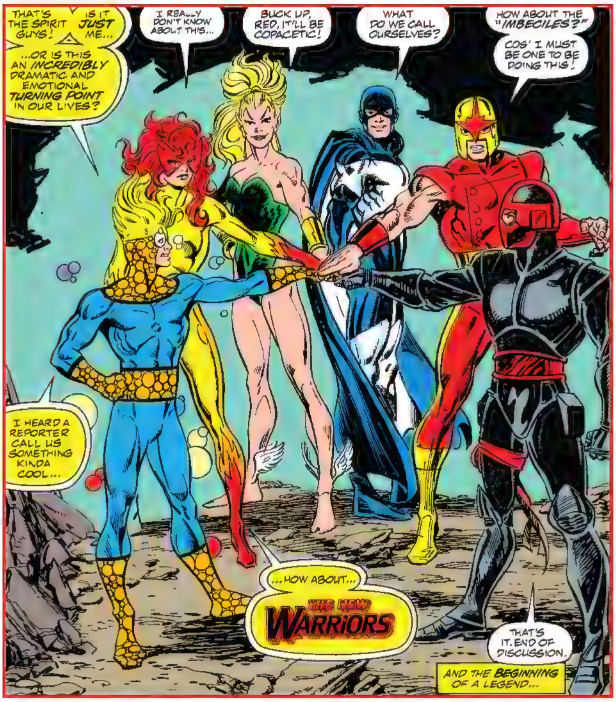


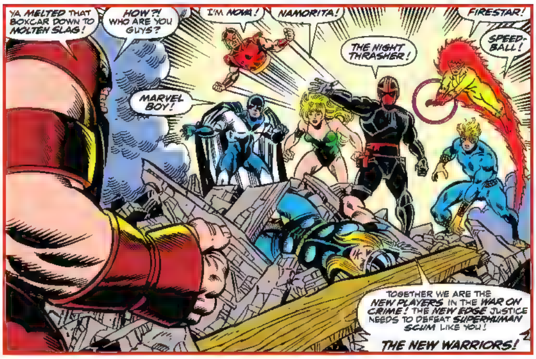
LILITH


AT THAT MOMENT...
I BELIEVE WITHIN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE, MR. BLAZE.
THEN WHY ISN'T IT COLD AND WHERE IS THE SUN?
THIS IS CUTE! WHERE ARE WE?
AND HOW DID WE ALL GET HERE?
WHOEVER DID THIS WILL BE SORRY REAL SOON! BECAUSE I'M GOING TO CUT THEM TO RIBBONS!

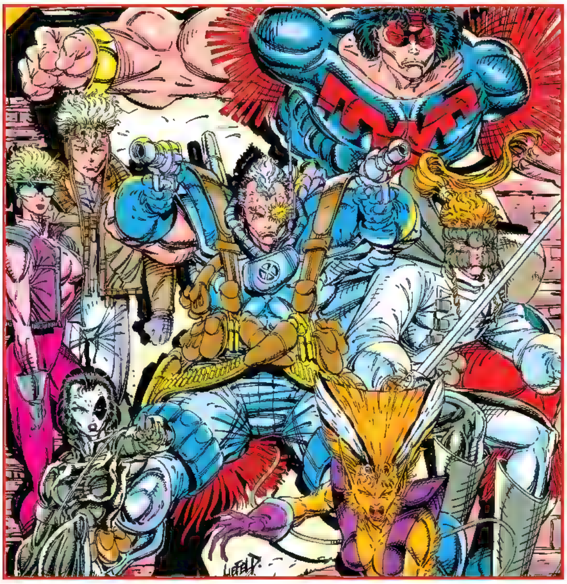
MODERN INCARNATION

In ancient times, a group of powerful beings joined together as the Order of the Midnight Sons to oppose the demon Zarathos and were successful in doing so. In modern times, Sorcerer Supreme Doctor Strange similarly gathered super-powered beings together to stand against the demonic Lilith and her children, the Lilin. These modern **Midnight Sons** included both Johnny Blaze and Danny Ketch, pseudo-vampire Morbius, the mystic-hunting Blade, Frank Drake, Hannibal King and a trio of Darkhold Redeemers, a group dedicated to destroying the evil Darkhold book of spells. The Midnight Sons repeatedly faced Lilith, her progeny and other mystical threats before going their separate ways. Other incarnations of the group have been known to gather as needed. The ancient Order of the Midnight Sons was first depicted in ***Ghost Rider/Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance* #14 (1993)**, while the modern incarnation of the Midnight Sons gathered in ***Ghost Rider* #31 (1992)**.

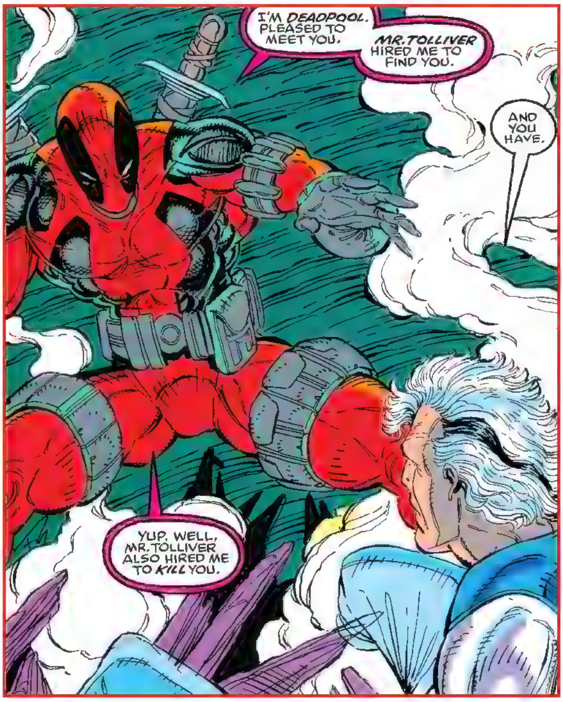

THAT'S THE SPIRIT GUYS!
IS IT JUST ME...
...OR IS THIS AN INCREDIBLY DRAMATIC AND EMOTIONAL TURNING POINT IN OUR LIVES?
I REALLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...
BUCK UP, RED, IT'LL BE COPACETIC!
WHAT DO WE CALL OURSELVES?
HOW ABOUT THE "IMBECILES?"
COS' I MUST BE ONE TO BE DOING THIS!
I HEARD A REPORTER CALL US SOMETHING KINDA COOL...
...HOW ABOUT...
THE NEW WARRIORS
THAT'S IT. END OF DISCUSSION.
AND THE BEGINNING OF A LEGEND...


YA MELTED THAT BOXCAR DOWN TO MOLTEN SLAG!
HOW?! WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
I'M NOVA!
NAMORITA!
FIRESTAR!
THE NIGHT THRASHER!
SPEED-BALL!
MARVEL BOY!
TOGETHER WE ARE THE NEW PLAYERS IN THE WAR ON CRIME! THE NEW EDGE JUSTICE NEEDS TO DEFEAT SUPERHUMAN SCUM LIKE YOU!
THE NEW WARRIORS!

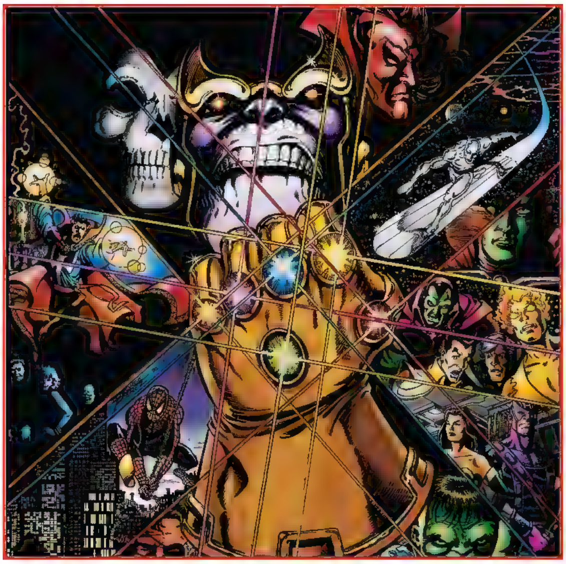
After his parents were murdered when he was a child, Dwayne Taylor used their vast wealth to train himself to human perfection and create a suit of armor he used to fight crime as the vigilante Night Thrasher. With the Fantastic Four as his inspiration, Taylor sought to create a super-powered surrogate family and sought out fellow teen heroes Firestar, a microwave and flame manipulator, the telekinetic Marvel Boy and the flying powerhouse Nova. A subsequent battle against a powerful extraterrestrial brought this group into contact with two more teen superhumans, the hyperkinetic-powered Speedball and Atlantean hybrid Namorita. Following the battle, the six decided to remain together as a group, adopting a name they had been called by the media—and **the New Warriors** were born. ***New Warriors #1* (1990)** and ***Thor #411-412*** **(1989)**.



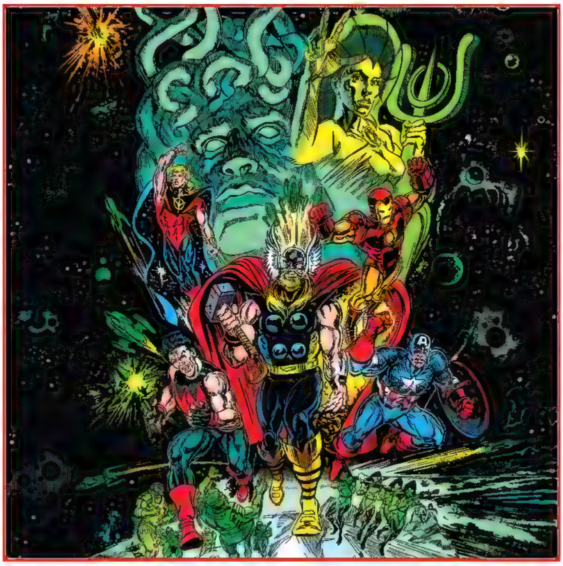
When Cyclops' toddler son, Nathan Summers, became infected with a Techno-Organic virus, he had no choice but to entrust his child to a woman who promised to save his life in her native time, the 38th century. Later, through psychic time travel, Cyclops' consciousness was taken to that future to help raise his son to his teens. In his growth to adulthood, Nathan became a hardened soldier and militant strategist during countless battles against would-be conqueror Apocalypse. Mastering time travel, Nathan—now calling himself **Cable** as a metaphor for his being a link between times—eventually returned to his native era and took over leadership of the New Mutants, helping train them to become the paramilitary X-Force. His brutal tactics often clashed with the more peaceful approach of the X-Men, but Cable became a trusted ally of pro-mutant causes, even more so when Cyclops learned Cable was Nathan. Cable first appeared as an infant in ***Uncanny X-Men #201* (1986)** and then as Cable in ***New Mutants #86* (1990)**; Cyclops' son was sent to the future to save his life in ***X-Factor #68* (1991)**. Cyclops helped raise Nathan in ***The Adventures of Cyclops and Phoenix #1-4* (1994)** and learned Nathan had become Cable in ***Cable #6-8* (1993-1994)**. **The New Mutants became X-Force** in ***New Mutants #99-100* (1991)**. Their first recorded mission took place in ***New Mutants Annual #7* (1991)**, ***New Warriors Annual #1* (1991)**, ***Uncanny X-Men Annual #15* (1991)** and ***X-Factor Annual #6* (1991)**.


I'M DEADPOOL. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
MR. TOLLIVER HIRED ME TO FIND YOU.
AND YOU HAVE.
YUP. WELL, MR. TOLLIVER ALSO HIRED ME TO KILL YOU.

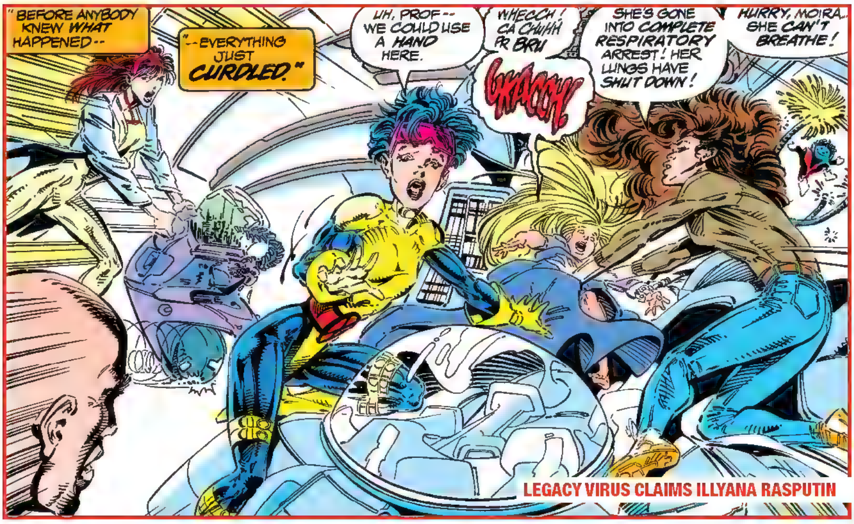
Due to the erratic sanity of the man known as **Deadpool**, little can be confirmed about his past with absolute certainty, including if "Wade Wilson" is his true name. What is known is that the man who would become Deadpool became a mercenary by age 19 and at some point was diagnosed with cancer. When he volunteered to be a test subject for the Weapon X program, his cancer was cured via a healing factor derived from Wolverine (Logan/James Howlett), but the process reversed his condition by constantly producing new cells and mass, leaving him permanently disfigured. Though insane and believing he is a fictional character, Deadpool is an extremely deadly warrior who maintains a core morality that prevents him from harming children or the innocent, but his loyalties can change with the fluid nature of his mind or depending on who is paying him. Deadpool first appeared in ***New Mutants #98* (1991)**; what we know of his origins were recounted in ***Deadpool: The Circle Chase #3* (1993)**, ***Deadpool #-1* (1997)**, ***Deadpool/Death Annual* (1998)**, ***Deadpool #36* (2000)**, and ***X-Men Origins: Deadpool #1* (2010)**.



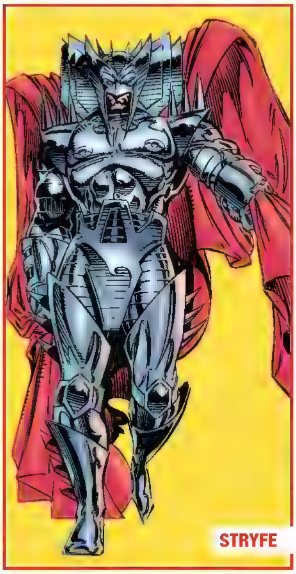
Completing a violent quest to collect all six Infinity Gems—stones capable of commanding incalculable power individually—the mad Titan Thanos combined the six gems together to gain omnipotent power. As a tribute to his greatest love, the embodiment of Death, **Thanos eliminated half the universe's population** by snapping his fingers, overcoming what Death perceived as overpopulation of vast proportions. With his newfound godhood, Thanos easily resisted assaults by the universe's greatest heroes and the highest powers of reality. When he abandoned his physical form to ascend to a higher plane of existence, his enemy Nebula seized the gauntlet housing the gems. After forcing her to drop the gauntlet, the genetically engineered Adam Warlock took possession of the gems. Later under decree from the Living Tribunal—the acting judge of the Multiverse—Warlock separated the gems and entrusted them to guardians he personally chose. Thanos' murderous plans took place in place in ***Thanos Quest #1-2*** **(1990)** and ***Infinity Gauntlet #1-6*** **(1991)**, while Warlock's dividing of the gems was told in ***Warlock and the Infinity Watch #1-2*** **(1992)**.



A conflict between the Kree and Shi'ar Empire necessitated the involvement of Earth's superhuman forces when both sides of the war began using stargates in the Milky Way, which threatened Earth's safety. Hoping to end the conflict, the Avengers split into three factions: one to protect Earth, one to journey to Kree territory and one to go to Shi'ar space. Despite their best intentions, the Avengers were unable to stop the detonation of a Nega-bomb device, an explosion that slaughtered 98 percent of the 500 billion Kree. When the Avengers learned Kree leader the Supreme Intelligence had engineered the war and manipulated the death of his own race to jump-start their evolution, a number of Avengers went rogue and executed the Supreme Intelligence, causing a rift within the team that always had taken the stance that Avengers do not kill. In reality, the Supreme Intelligence escaped his execution by beaming his consciousness into a waiting starship. The sprawling **Operation: Galactic Storm** epic took place in ***Avengers #345-347*** **(1992)**, ***Avengers West Coast #80-82*** **(1992)**, ***Captain America #398-401*** **(1992)**, ***Iron Man #278-279*** **(1992)**, ***Quasar #32-34*** **(1992)**, ***Thor #445-446*** **(1992)** and ***Wonder Man #7-9*** **(1992)**.

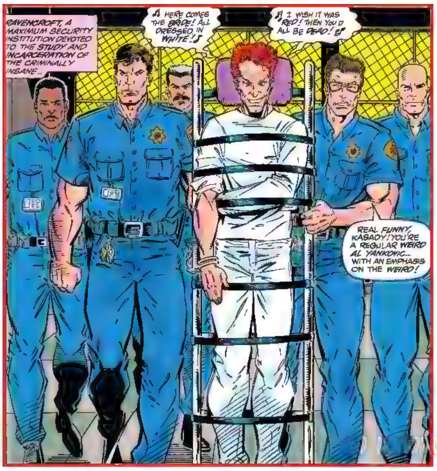

"BEFORE ANYBODY KNEW WHAT HAPPENED--
"--EVERYTHING JUST CURDLED."
UH, PROF-- WE COULD USE A HAND HERE.
WHECCH! CA CHUHH PR BRU
GKACCH!
SHE'S GONE INTO COMPLETE RESPIRATORY ARREST! HER LUNGS HAVE SHUT DOWN!
HURRY, MOIRA... SHE CAN'T BREATHE!

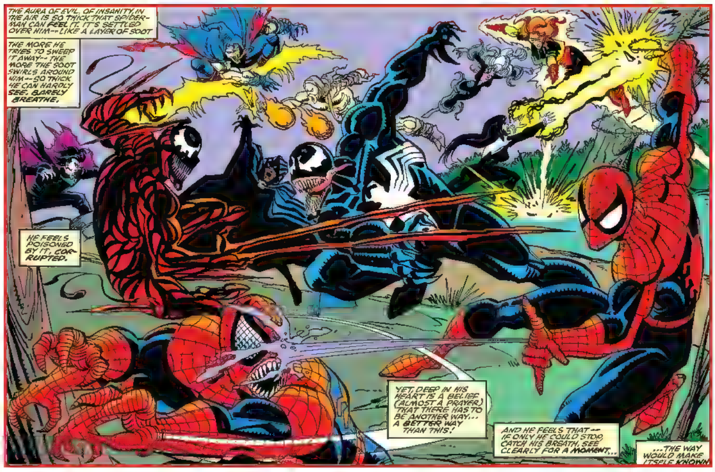
LEGACY VIRUS CLAIMS ILLYANA RASPUTIN



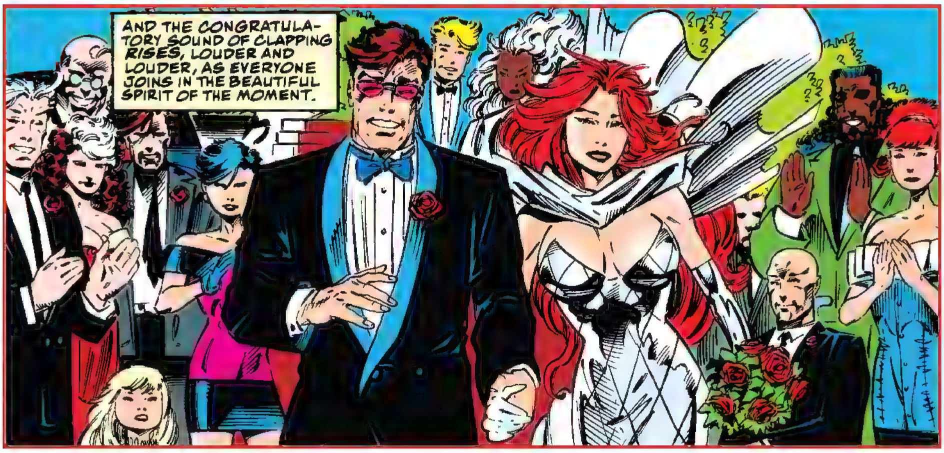
STRYFE

The being known as Stryfe was created in the 38th century by those entrusted with the care of Cyclops' toddler son, Nathan Summers, as a fail-safe in case they could not cure the child of the Techno-Organic virus ravaging his body. When immortal mutant conqueror Apocalypse tried to kidnap Summers to claim his body for his own, he kidnapped Stryfe by mistake. Apocalypse raised Stryfe without empathy, turning him into a violent conqueror and warrior. Journeying to the 20th century, Stryfe enacted a complicated plan of revenge against Apocalypse and Cable (a grown Nathan Summers). The plan included Stryfe nearly killing Charles Xavier and recruiting mad geneticist Mister Sinister to his side by promising him a vial of Stryfe's DNA, something Sinister had been trying to obtain for years. However, when Sinister opened the vial, he unintentionally released Stryfe's greatest weapon, a lethal virus that targeted mutants. One of the first recorded victims of this **Legacy virus** was young Illyana Rasputin, the sister of the X-Man Colossus; she faced a slow, lingering, painful death that devastated the X-Men. The virus would plague mutantkind for years to come. Much of what we know of Stryfe's origin comes from ***The Adventures of Cyclops and Phoenix #1-4*** **(1994)** and ***Cable #6-8*** **(1993-1994)**. His intricate plot (the X-Cutioner's Song) unfolded in ***Uncanny X-Men #294-297*** **(1992-1993)**, ***X-Factor #84-86*** **(1992-1993)**, ***X-Force #16-18*** **(1992-1993)** and ***X-Men #14-16*** **(1992-1993)**. The Legacy virus took Illyana Rasputin in ***Uncanny X-Men #303*** **(1993)**.

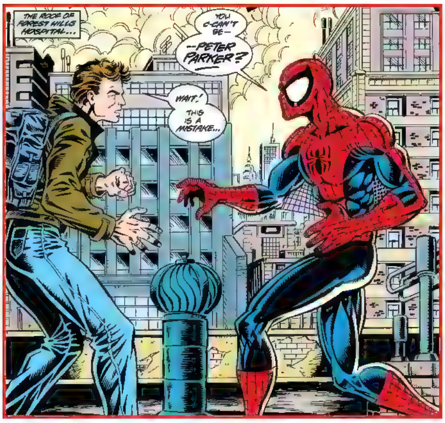

RAVENCROFT, A MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTION DEVOTED TO THE STUDY AND INCARCERATION OF THE CRIMINALLY INSANE...
♫ HERE COMES THE BRIDE! ALL DRESSED IN WHITE! ♪
♫ I WISH IT WAS RED! THEN YOU'D ALL BE DEAD! ♫
REAL FUNNY, KASADY! YOU'RE A REGULAR WEIRD AL YANKOVIC... WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE WEIRD!

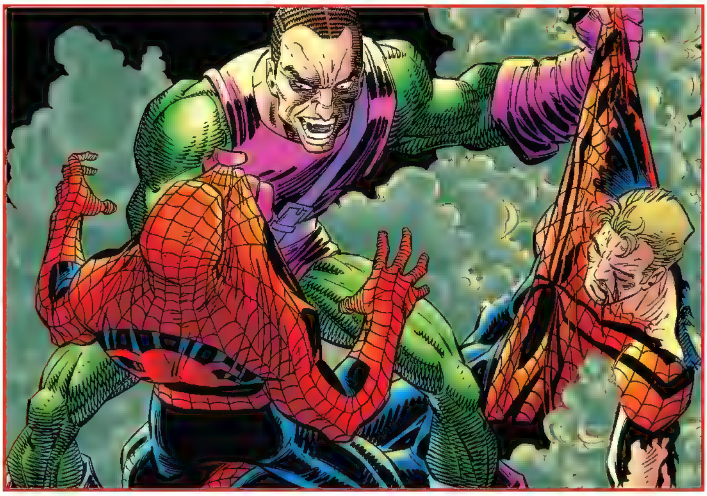

THE AURA OF EVIL, OF INSANITY, IN THE AIR IS SO THICK THAT SPIDER-MAN CAN FEEL IT. IT'S SETTLED OVER HIM--LIKE A LAYER OF SOOT
THE MORE HE TRIES TO SWEEP IT AWAY--THE MORE THE SOOT SWIRLS AROUND HIM--SO THICK HE CAN HARDLY SEE. BARELY BREATHE.
HE FEELS POISONED BY IT, CORRUPTED.
YET, DEEP IN HIS HEART IS A BELIEF (ALMOST A PRAYER) THAT THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY... A BETTER WAY THAN THIS!
AND HE FEELS THAT--IF ONLY HE COULD STOP, CATCH HIS BREATH, SEE CLEARLY FOR A MOMENT...
...THE WAY WOULD MAKE ITSELF KNOWN

Psychopathic serial killer Cletus Kasady was cellmates with Venom host Eddie Brock when Brock's symbiote broke him out of prison. The symbiote left behind its offspring, which possessed Kasady in ***Amazing Spider-Man #345*** **(1991)**, creating the murderous Carnage, who first appeared in ***Amazing Spider-Man #361*** **(1992)**. In a later escape from the Ravencroft Institute, Carnage gathered a number of fellow mentally ill superhumans and went on a killing spree across New York City. Spider-Man and a number of other heroes were forced to team with Venom to confront Carnage's "family." After an extended series of battles, Venom and Spider-Man were finally able to defeat Carnage. The Maximum Carnage storyline took place in ***Amazing Spider-Man #378-380*** **(1993)**, ***Spectacular Spider-Man #201-203*** **(1993)**, ***Spider-Man #35-37*** **(1993)**, ***Spider-Man Unlimited #1-2*** **(1993)** and ***Web of Spider-Man #101-103*** **(1993)**.

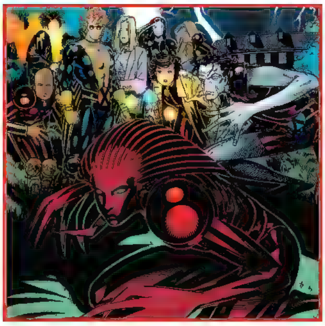

AND THE CONGRATULATORY SOUND OF CLAPPING RISES, LOUDER AND LOUDER, AS EVERYONE JOINS IN THE BEAUTIFUL SPIRIT OF THE MOMENT.

Jean Grey and Scott Summers first met in ***X-Men #1*** **(1963)** and eventually revealed their secret feelings for each other and fell in love. After years of both happiness and trials that strained their relationship, the two were finally able to tie the knot in a lavish ceremony while surrounded by friends, family and X-Men teammates. The wedding of Scott Summers and Jean Grey occurred in ***X-Men #30*** **(1993)**.

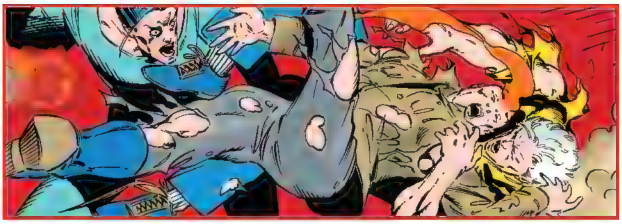

THE ROOF OF FOREST HILLS HOSPITAL...
YOU C-CAN'T BE--
--PETER PARKER?
WAIT! THIS IS A MISTAKE...

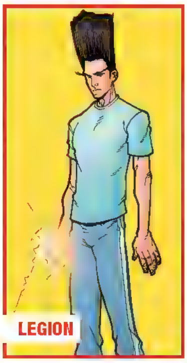


Spider-Man fell victim to the most complicated plot ever hatched against him when the believed-dead Norman Osborn orchestrated a yearslong series of manipulations and secret attacks against his greatest enemy, all centered around the clone created by Professor Miles Warren in ***Amazing Spider-Man #149-151*** **(1975)**. Through careful planning, Osborn threw the lives of Peter Parker and his clone (who had secretly survived and was now calling himself Ben Reilly) into mass confusion, casting doubt on who was the genuine article and who was the clone. After considerable time of chaos in the lives of anyone attached to Peter Parker, Osborn revealed his survival and attacked both Spider-Men, a battle that ultimately killed Ben Reilly and revealed he was the clone. While relieved to know the truth, Parker mourned the loss of one he had come to consider a brother, and he was filled with dread over the continued existence of the greatest enemy he had ever known. The **Clone Saga** officially began in ***Web of Spider-Man #117*** **(1994)** and ended in ***Peter Parker: Spider-Man #75*** **(1996)**. Norman Osborn's convoluted master plan was fully summarized in ***Spider-Man: The Osborn Journals #1*** **(1997)**.



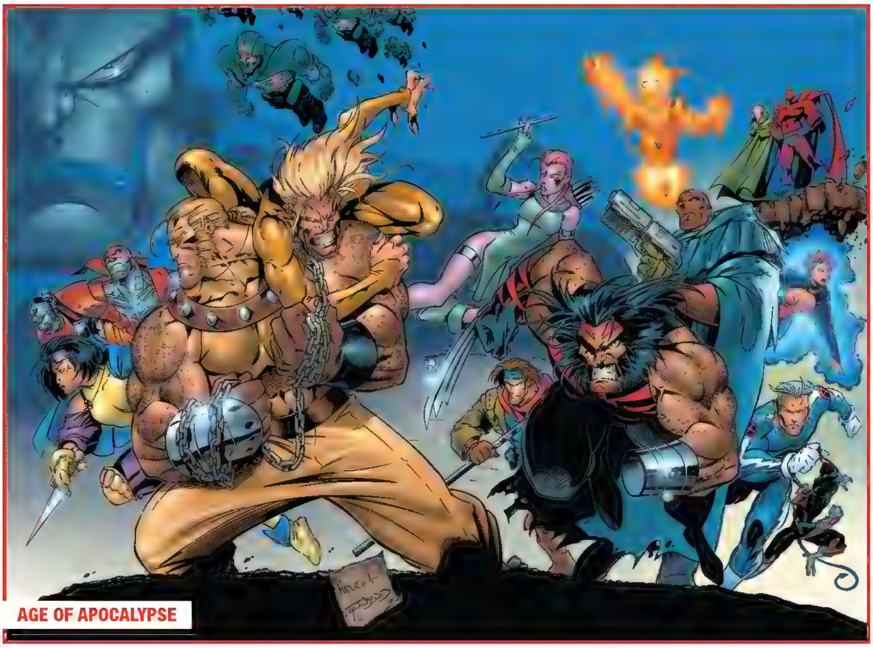
When the database carefully collected by Charles Xavier was stolen by a dangerous alien race, X-Men Banshee and Jubilee teamed with former enemies the White Queen (Emma Frost) and Sabretooth (Victor Creed) to reach the mutant youth who were detailed in the information before the aliens could procure and weaponize them. Once the alien threat was over, Banshee and the White Queen became co-headmasters of a school that would train these kids with the safe use of their powers as well as educate their minds. This training class, collectively known as **Generation X**, included power mimic Synch, Jubilee, multipowered M, shape-shifter Husk, the epidermis-manipulating Skin and explosive psionic Chamber. This class would remain together for years before the school was ultimately shut down. The youths first gathered together in ***Uncanny X-Men #316-317*** **(1994)** and ***X-Men #36-37*** **(1994)** and became a class in ***Generation X #1*** **(1994)**.





LEGION

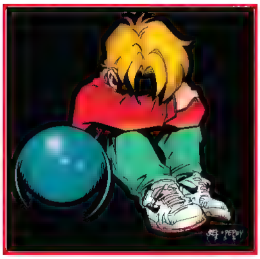
David Haller's 10-year-old mutant mind was shattered during a terrorist attack that left him with dissociative identity disorder and a super-powered mutant ability for each of the countless personas within him. David Haller became Legion and eventually believed he could heal the rift between mutants and humans by traveling to the past and eliminating mutant supremacist Magneto (Max Eisenhardt) before his ideological war with Haller's father, Charles Xavier, could become reality. However, Haller accidentally killed Xavier, erasing Haller's own birth and causing a massive rupture in reality. The **Legion Quest** took place in ***Cable #20*** **(1995)**, ***Uncanny X-Men #320-321*** **(1995)**, ***X-Factor #109*** **(1994)** and ***X-Men #40-41*** **(1995)**.

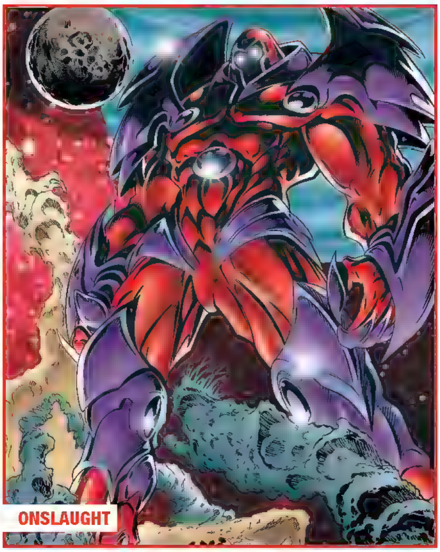


AGE OF APOCALYPSE

Haller's actions left a timeline where Xavier never existed to prevent the rise of mutant conqueror Apocalypse from taking control of the world and ruling through his maxim of ascendancy of the fittest. Apocalypse's twenty-year domination resulted in a dystopia of death, misery and horrors. Eventually, Magneto gathered a mutant resistance and named them the X-Men in honor of his slain friend Charles Xavier. The desperate resistance finally bore fruit when a time-travel plan resulted in Xavier being saved from his accidental execution and the restoration of reality. The "**Age of Apocalypse**" timeline was saved from being unraveled by the Phoenix Force and continued existing as an alternate reality. The storyline began in ***X-Men: Alpha*** **(1995)** and concluded in ***X-Men: Omega*** **(1995)**.

During a battle between Magneto and the X-Men, Charles Xavier used his telepathy to shut down Magneto's mind. Unexpectedly, the darkness within Magneto's ego infiltrated Xavier's mind, freeing long-repressed rage and negativity that ultimately manifested as a psionic entity of extreme power, **Onslaught**. Believing the only true way to bring about peaceful coexistence between mutants and humans was to eliminate independent thought and link every mind on Earth, Onslaught began an assault on the planet that created worldwide chaos. During a climactic battle against numerous human and mutant heroes, Onslaught's armor was destroyed, allowing Onslaught to become a being of pure mental energy. Believing the only way to stop Onslaught was by disrupting it from within, non-mutant heroes such as the Avengers and the Fantastic Four sacrificed themselves by entering Onslaught, which was then destroyed by the mutant X-Men from outside. Though the human heroes were actually sent to a pocket reality subconsciously created by the mutant Franklin Richards, son of the Fantastic Four's Invisible Woman and Mister Fantastic, the world at large believed mutants killed their beloved heroes, leading to an age of accentuated fear and hatred of mutantkind. Xavier mindwiped Magneto in ***X-Men #25*** **(1993)**. Onslaught's first full appearance was in ***X-Men #53*** **(1996)**. His assault on Earth began in earnest in ***Onslaught: X-Men #1*** **(1996)** and came to its violent conclusion in ***Onslaught: Marvel Universe #1*** **(1996)**.

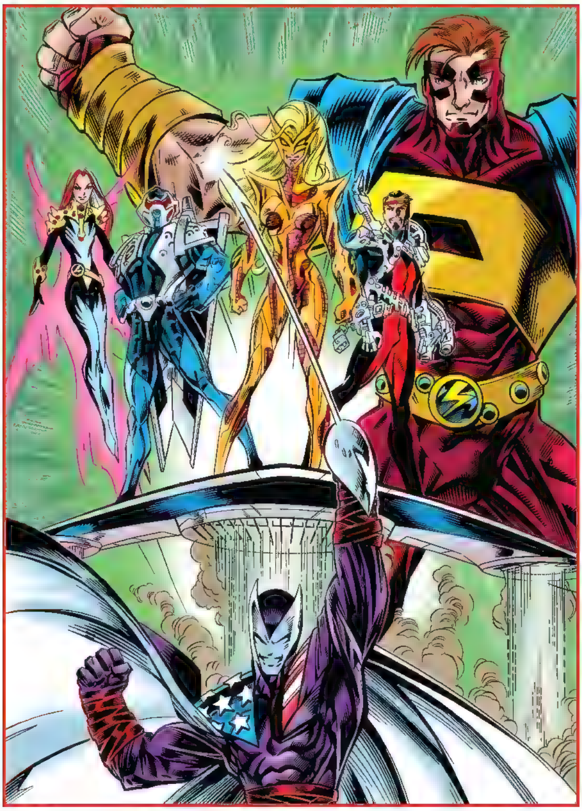


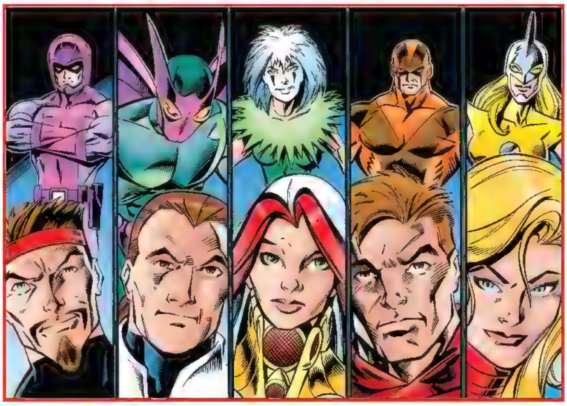


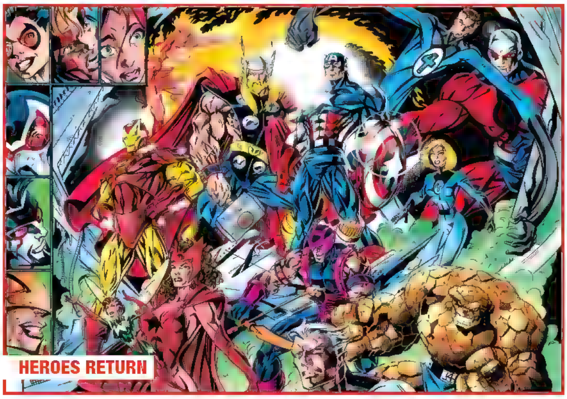
ONSLAUGHT

HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #5 ANNOTATIONS

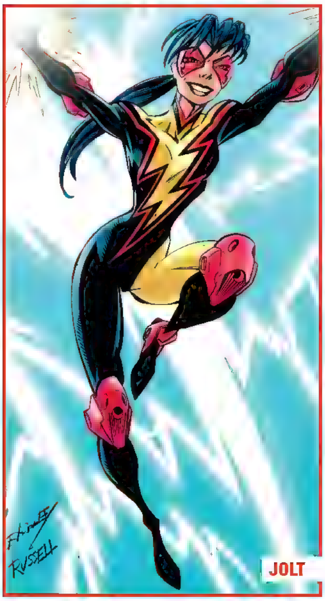
Design: Stacie Zucker





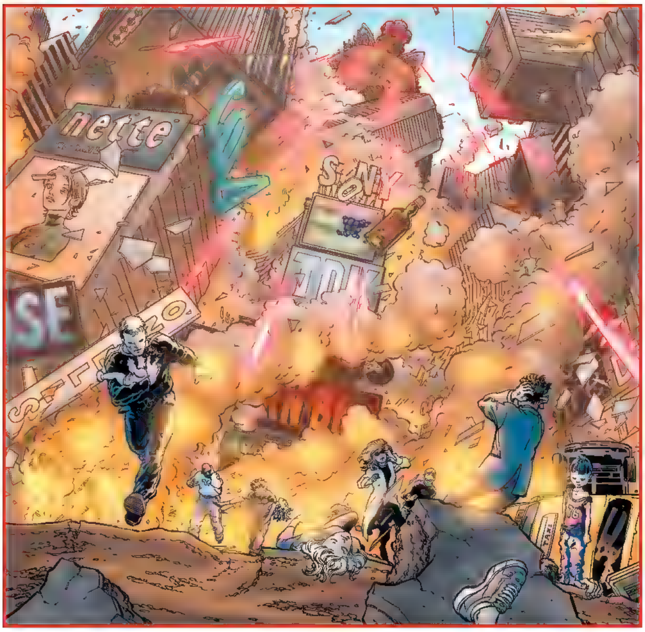


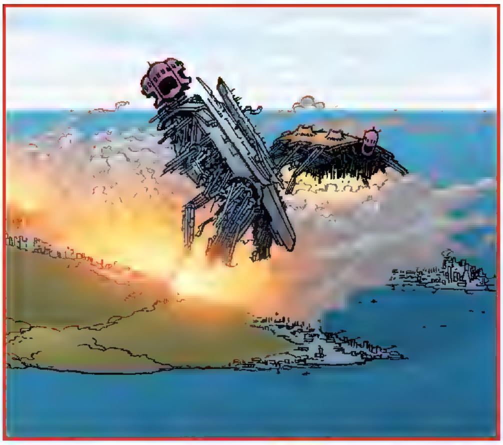
HEROES RETURN



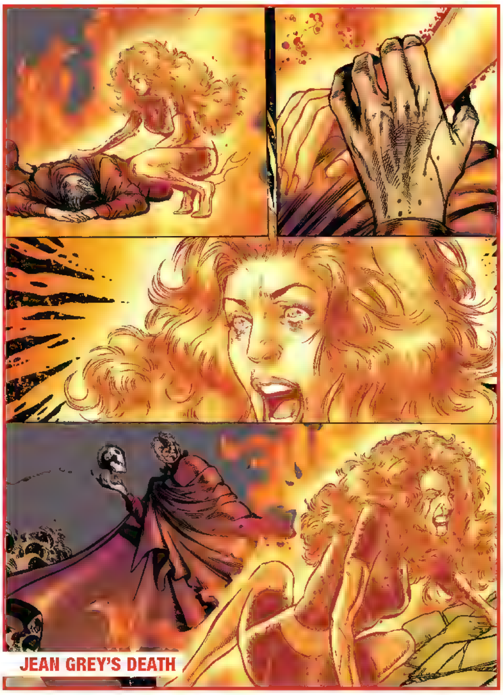
JOLT

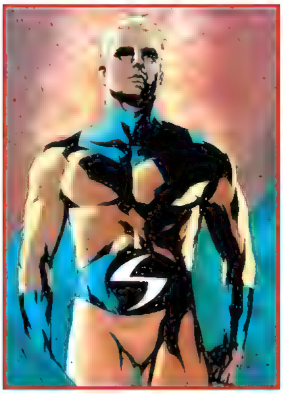
While the people of Earth believed their prominent heroes to be dead, criminal mastermind Baron Zemo hatched a plan to disguise a number of former Masters of Evil as heroes, intending to earn the world's trust while secretly conquering Earth. As Citizen V, Zemo led MACH-1 (the Beetle/Abe Jenkins), Techno (the Fixer/Norbert Ebersol), Atlas (Goliath/Erik Josten), Meteorite (Moonstone/Karla Sofen) and Songbird (Screaming Mimi/Melissa Gold) as the Thunderbolts, a team that quickly found public favor and popularity. Despite their villainous secret, the team welcomed Jolt (Hallie Takahama), an orphan who gained bioelectric energy powers after insane geneticist Arnim Zola experimented on her. Zemo believed her enthusiastic presence could help solidify their positive public image. However, once his partners began embracing the heroic lifestyle for real, Zemo leaked their identities to authorities to force them to remain by his side. On the run from heroes and their former peers alike, the ex-villains rejected Zemo and began a quest to truly redeem themselves by trying to serve the greater good rather than villainy. The Thunderbolts first appeared in ***Incredible Hulk #449*** **(1997)**; the team's origin was told in ***Thunderbolts Annual 1997***. Their true identities were revealed to readers in ***Thunderbolts #1*** **(1997)** and to the denizens of the Marvel Universe in ***Thunderbolts #10*** **(1998)**. Simultaneously, the Avengers and Fantastic Four lived out their lives in a pocket dimension created by Franklin Richards and remained unaware of their previous lives in their native reality, Earth-616. When the enigmatic Celestials became aware of the two Earths, they demanded Franklin destroy one. With the help of Franklin, Spider-Man (Peter Parker), Doctor Stephen Strange and a portion of the Hulk left behind in Earth-616, the stranded heroes reclaimed their memories and returned to their home reality in time to confront the Thunderbolts. The return of Earth's heroes was met with great relief and rejoicing. The heroes lived alternate lives in ***Avengers #1-13***, ***Captain America #1-13***, ***Fantastic Four #1-13*** and ***Iron Man #1-13*** **(all 1996-1997)**. Their return was chronicled in ***Heroes Reborn: The Return #1-4*** **(1997)** and continued to unfold in ***Avengers #1***, ***Captain America #1***, ***Fantastic Four #1*** and ***Iron Man #1*** **(all 1998)**. The confrontation with the Thunderbolts took place in ***Thunderbolts #11-12*** **(1998)**.



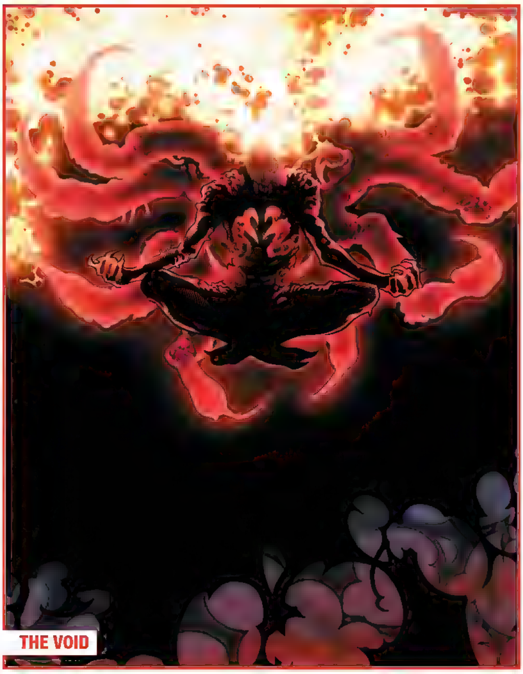


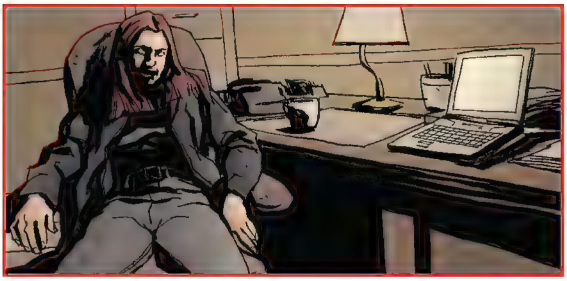
A period of extraordinary tumult and expansion for the X-Men began when the mutant population of Earth experienced a dramatic increase and many started undergoing secondary mutations, which granted mutants additional abilities and complications. During this time, Charles Xavier's malevolent genetic twin sister, Cassandra Nova, who believed killing Xavier would allow her to master the universe, slaughtered the population of the island nation of Genosha—sixteen million mutants—to weaken Xavier's spirit. Nova then secretly switched minds with Xavier and publicly outed him as a mutant, revealed the true purpose of his school and opened the school to hundreds of young mutants from around the world. Following the discovery of Nova's duplicity and her defeat by the X-Men, a new recruit to the school's teaching staff, Kuan-Yin Xorn, came to believe he was the X-Men's foe Magneto and began recruiting vulnerable students to his cause of mutant supremacy. After killing more than 5,000 people in New York City, "Magneto" was opposed by the X-Men. During the battle, he killed X-Man Jean Grey and was subsequently decapitated by Wolverine (Logan/James Howlett). A disillusioned Charles Xavier soon left the X-Men to begin rebuilding Genosha alongside the true Magneto (Max Eisenhardt). ***New-X-Men #114-154* (2001-2004)** and ***New X-Men Annual 2001*** contained the main storyline of the X-Men through this era. Xavier's efforts to rebuild Genosha began in ***Uncanny X-Men #442-443*** **(2004)** and ***Excalibur #1*** **(2004)**.


JEAN GREY'S DEATH

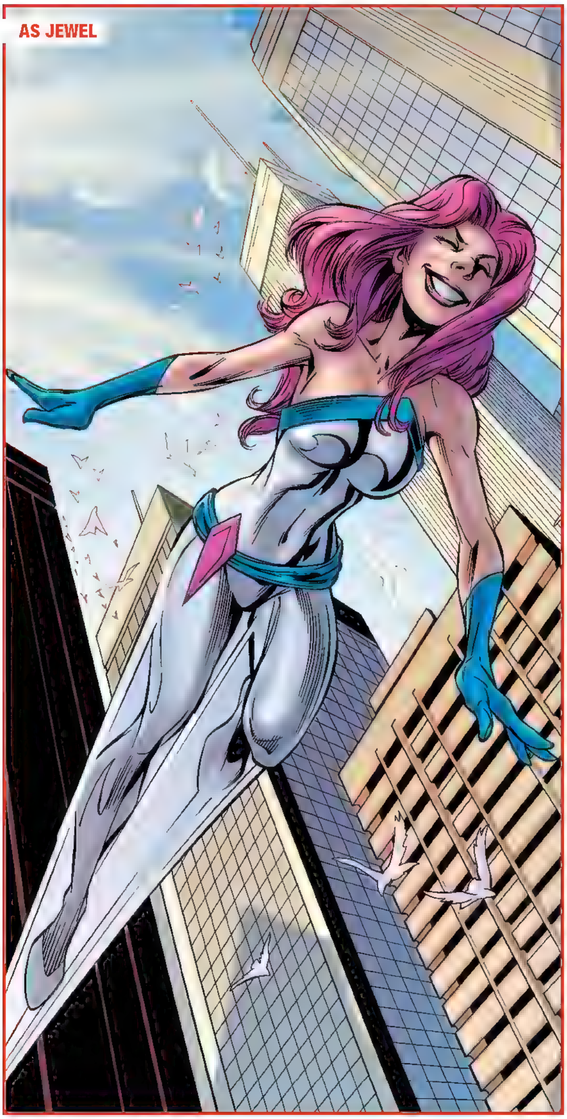


Bob Reynolds, a teenager suffering from schizophrenia and anxiety, stole an experimental serum from one of his teachers who was secretly working for the government. The serum was an attempt to re-create the formula that transformed Steve Rogers into Captain America. Hoping to get high, Reynolds drank the serum and instead gained immense solar-powered abilities as the **Sentry**, but he also manifested the malevolent Void personality. The two separated into individual entities, both unaware they were personalities of the same being. Not long after the debuts of the Fantastic Four, Spider-Man and the Hulk, the Sentry became a public hero. After repeated battles, the Sentry recognized the Void as an aspect of himself. The criminal Mastermind (Jason Wyngarde) forced the Sentry to telepathically erase knowledge of himself and the Void from humanity as well as himself. Merged with the Void once more, Reynolds lived a quiet, unassuming life for years, the only public knowledge of the Sentry being comic books created by artists who had vague impressions placed in their minds by Reynolds' subconscious. Sometime after Earth's heroes returned from Franklin Richards' pocket dimension, the Void broke free again, renewing his constant struggle with the Sentry for ascendancy. The Sentry's tale was told in ***Sentry #1-5*** **(2000-2001)** and ***Sentry vs. the Void #1*** **(2001)**. Mastermind's manipulation of the Sentry was revealed in ***New Avengers #9-10*** **(2005)**.

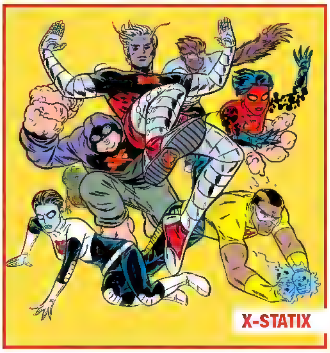

THE VOID



Teenaged Jessica Cambell was in a car when it collided with a U.S. Army truck, killing her family. A canister of unidentified material fell from the truck, and exposure to it saved Campbell's life. After months in a coma, Cambell was adopted by the Jones family. She later discovered the material granted her flight and superhuman strength, which she used as the super hero Jewel. During a confrontation with the Purple Man, Jewel became mentally enthralled by his pheromone powers and was his personal plaything for months. When the Purple Man sent Jewel to attack the Avengers, the shock of attacking her idol the Scarlet Witch (Wanda Maximoff) broke his control over her; mental assistance from telepathic X-Men helped her eventually recover. Traumatized by the abuse she suffered, Jones became cynical and brusque, quit being Jewel and opened a private investigation firm called Alias Investigations. A later confrontation with the Purple Man activated psychic blocks established by the X-Men, enabling Jones to defeat her tormentor. **Jessica Jones** first appeared in ***Alias #1* (2001)**, and her origin was gradually told through ***Alias #28* (2004)**.

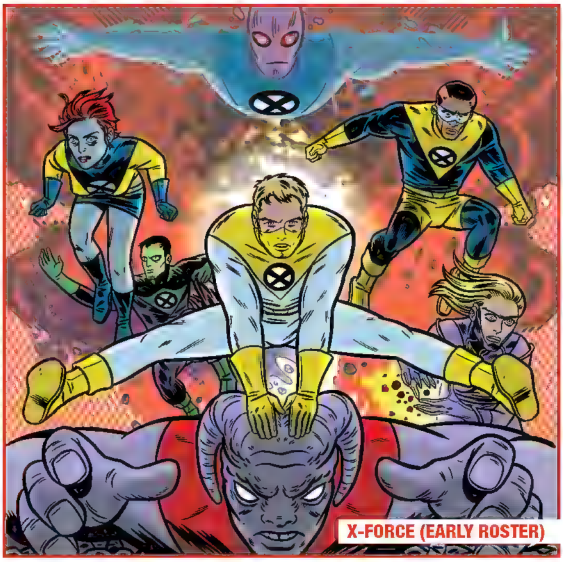


AS JEWEL

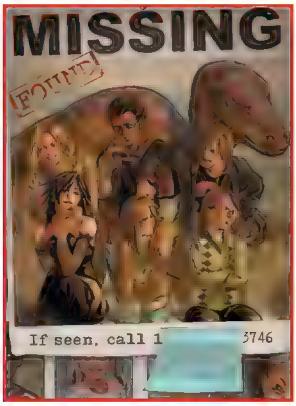


X-STATIX

Capitalizing on the public's fascination with celebrities, a group of mutants gathered as **X-Force** and used their powers to gain popularity and riches as super heroes. Eventually obtaining their own reality show, which was filmed by Cold War experiment Doop, X-Force televised their missions and became worldwide celebrities complete with countless licensed materials. However, when the majority of the team was killed on live television, new members were chosen and also became stars. Eventually, the team changed its name to **X-Statix**. Following a number of dangerous exploits and teammate deaths, the members decided to retire following one last mission. However, that mission resulted in the slaughter of the team. Among the most famous of the team's members were the mass-manipulating Phat, hyperesthetic Mister Sensitive, the zombie Dead Girl, teleporting U-Go Girl, the lycanthropic Vivisector and acid-sweating Anarchist. X-Force first appeared in ***X-Force #116* (2001)** and changed their name to X-Statix in ***X-Force #129*** and ***X-Statix #1* (both 2002)**. The team's death was recorded in ***X-Statix #26* (2004)**.

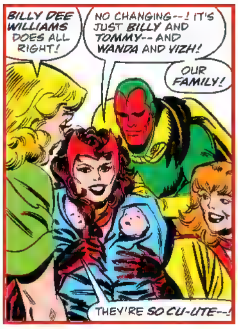


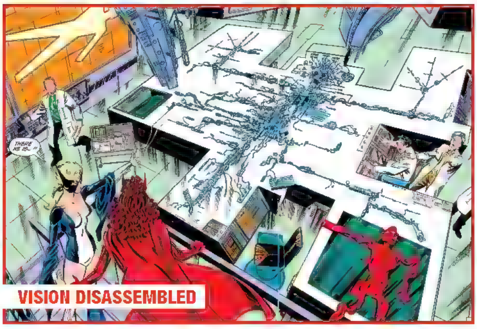
X-FORCE (EARLY ROSTER)

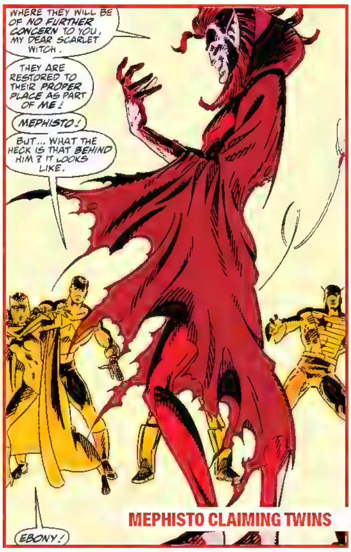


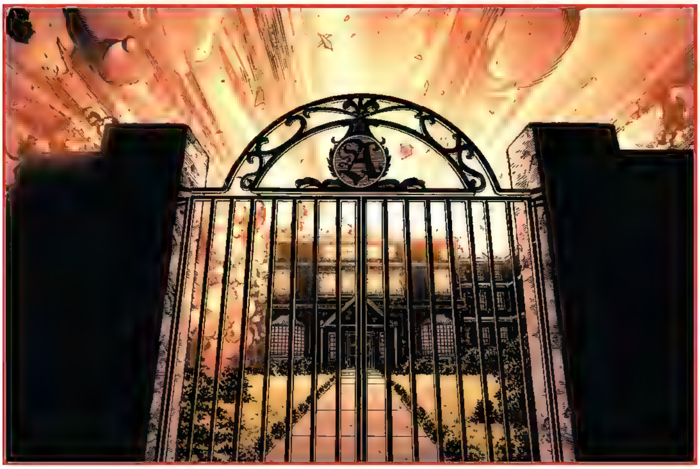
Unaware that all their parents were secretly criminals of the highest order, six teens suffered through annual gatherings of their families, oblivious to what their parents did during these visits. During one such gathering, the teens' curiosity got the best of them and, led by Alex Wilder, they secretly observed their parents sacrifice a young woman to the Gibborim, a trio of powerful beings they served who intended to conquer Earth. Horrified by the truth, the teens ran away from home and vowed to stop their parents. Over time, the teens discovered various abilities: Nico Minoru learned she was a sorcerer, Molly Hayes' mutant strength manifested, Karolina Dean discovered she was a super-powered extraterrestrial and Gertrude Yorkes found she had a bond with a genetically engineered dinosaur. Chase Stein pilfered advanced technology from his parents, rounding out the group's power base. Calling themselves the **Runaways**, the teens' quest to confront their parents often brought them into contact with various superhumans. The Runaways' journey began in ***Runaways #1* (2003)**.

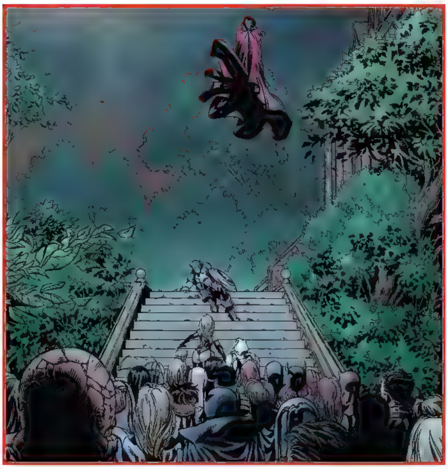
Sometime after her marriage to the Vision, the Scarlet Witch (Wanda Maximoff) harnessed vast magical power into a spell that enabled her to become pregnant. Unaware she had in actuality converted shards of the demon Mephisto's then-fragmented spirit into embryos, the Scarlet Witch gave birth to twins, Thomas and William. Time-traveling Immortus believed her children would threaten reality itself and plotted to destroy them. He began by manipulating the governments of Earth into kidnapping and dismantling the Vision out of the fear he would attempt a global computer takeover as he had done once before. The dismantling essentially killed Vision by destroying his consciousness. Though rebuilt, the Vision was now an emotionless robot, traumatizing the Scarlet Witch. Not long after, the Scarlet Witch learned the true origin of her children and was unable to prevent Mephisto from absorbing them to reconstitute his soul. Her mentor Agatha Harkness tried to prevent the Scarlet Witch from going insane by erasing her memories of her now-nonexistent children. However, when the Witch remembered her children much later, she sought out mystical assistance from the more powerful and less scrupulous Doctor Doom (Victor von Doom) who helped her tap into the universal "Life Force." Using the force, the Witch resurrected her sons in the past as Billy Kaplan and Tommy Shepard; the Life Force subsequently possessed the Witch and drove her insane. She subsequently began warping reality and ultimately attacked the Avengers, destroying their mansion and causing the deaths of teammates Jack of Hearts, Ant-Man (Scott Lang), Hawkeye (Clint Barton) and the Vision. The Avengers only survived her attack with the help of Doctor Strange, who shut down the Scarlet Witch's mind. Unsure what to do with their insane, now-mindless loved one, the demoralized Avengers allowed mutant supremacist Magneto—whom all believed was her father—to take the Scarlet Witch into his custody. Magneto took her to Charles Xavier in the hope that his telepathy could help repair her mind. The Avengers disbanded following these events. The Scarlet Witch cast the spell to conceive her children in ***Vision and the Scarlet Witch #4*** **(1985)** and gave birth in ***Vision and the Scarlet Witch #12*** **(1986)**. The Vision was disassembled and rebuilt in ***West Coast Avengers #42-45*** **(1989)**. The Scarlet Witch's twins were revealed to be shards of Mephisto's soul in ***Avengers West Coast #51-52*** **(1989)**. Immortus' manipulations were summarized in ***Avengers Forever #8*** **(1999)**. The Scarlet Witch's encounter with the Life Force and confirmation that Billy Kaplan and Tommy Shepherd were her resurrected children were revealed in ***Avengers: The Children's Crusade #1-9*** **(2010-2012)**, and the Witch's full descent into madness came to a head in ***Avengers #500-503*** **(2004)**. Magneto taking the Scarlet Witch to Charles Xavier was revealed in ***Avengers Finale #1*** **(2005)**, the same issue the Avengers disbanded.


BILLY DEE WILLIAMS DOES ALL RIGHT!
NO CHANGING--! IT'S JUST BILLY AND TOMMY-- AND WANDA AND VIZH!
OUR FAMILY!
THEY'RE SO CU-UTE--!

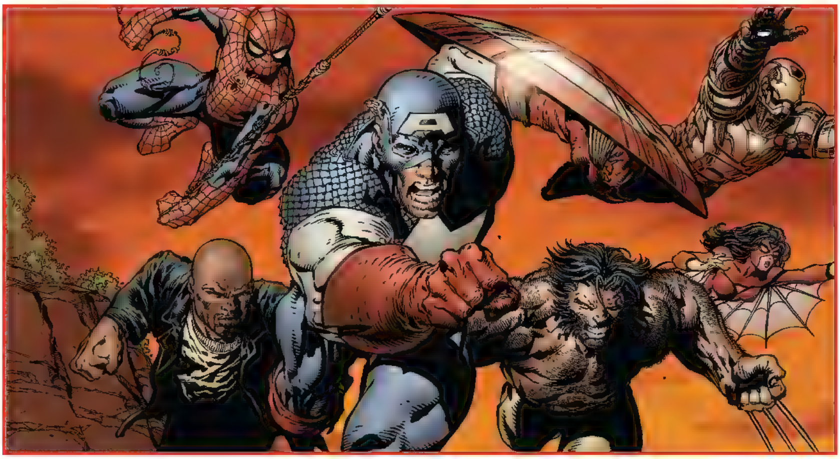

VISION DISASSEMBLED

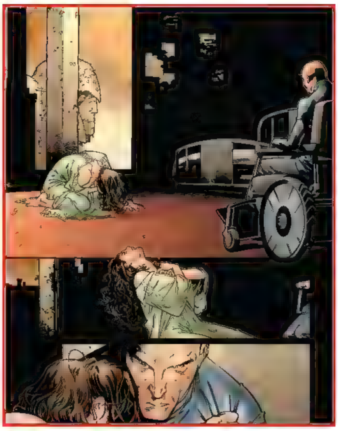

WHERE THEY WILL BE OF NO FURTHER CONCERN TO YOU, MY DEAR SCARLET WITCH.
THEY ARE RESTORED TO THEIR PROPER PLACE AS PART OF ME!
MEPHISTO!
BUT... WHAT THE HECK IS THAT BEHIND HIM? IT LOOKS LIKE.
EBONY!
MEPHISTO CLAIMING TWINS

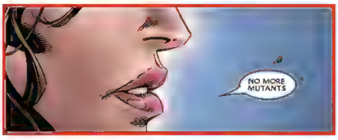


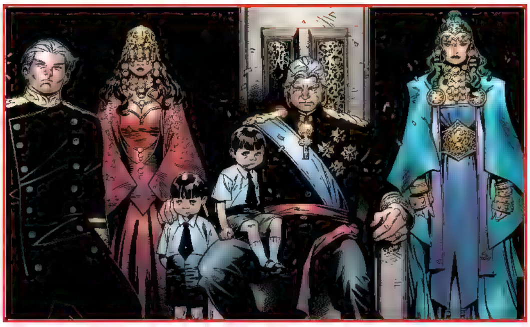


Not long after this, a prison break occurred on the Raft, a superhuman penitentiary. When a number of heroes, including Luke Cage, Spider-Man (Peter Parker), Captain America (Steve Rogers), Iron Man (Tony Stark) and Spider-Woman (actually an alien Skrull impersonating Jessica Drew), gathered to oppose a prison-wide escape, Captain America saw it as a sign the Avengers should reform and invited this group to stay together. The group was soon joined by Wolverine (Logan/James Howlett) and later by the Sentry. The formation of this **new iteration of the Avengers** unfolded in ***New Avengers #1-6*** **(2005)**.



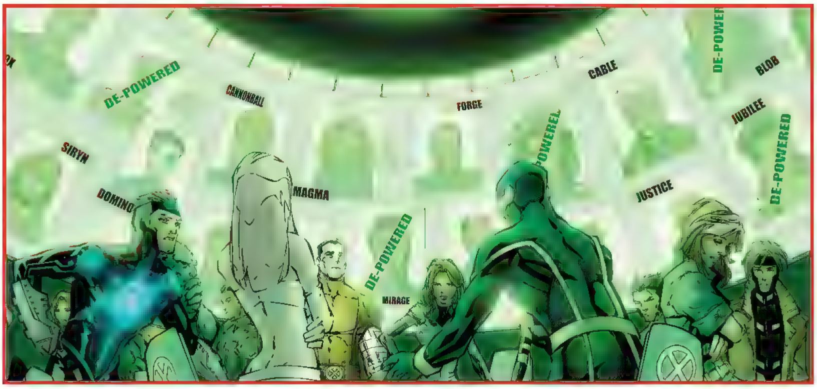


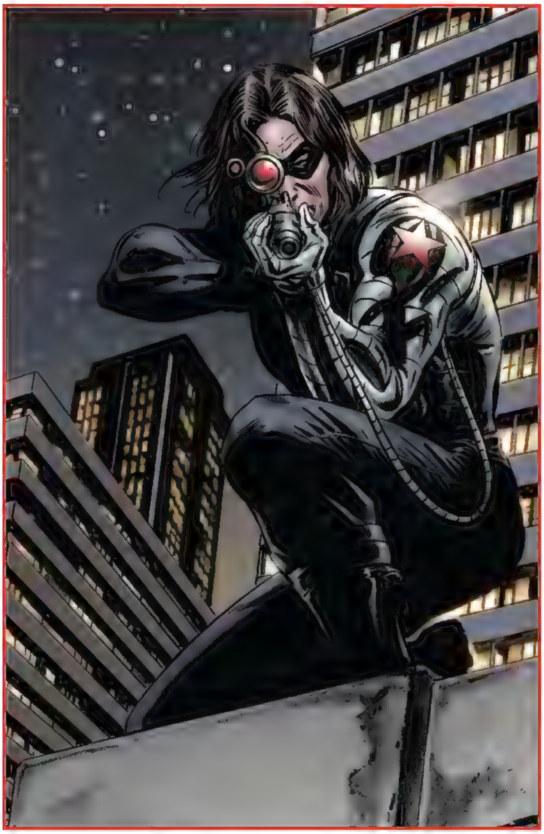




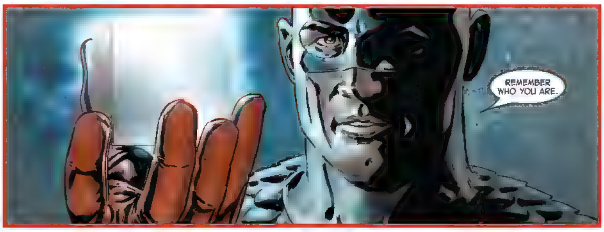
Despite his best efforts, telepath Charles Xavier was unable to cure the the insanity of the Scarlet Witch (Wanda Maximoff). To protect her and others, Xavier often psychically forced her to sleep. When Xavier approached the Avengers and X-Men to discuss the problem, the teams decided they needed to speak with the Scarlet Witch directly. When they approached her, she used her powers to re-create reality to be one where mutantkind was the ruling class of Earth, led by Magneto (Max Eisenhardt) and his family, including the Scarlet Witch. In her new reality, the Scarlet Witch also resurrected Hawkeye (Clint Barton), who had been killed during her breakdown. However, various heroes began remembering reality as it was and eventually set out collectively to confront the Scarlet Witch. During the climactic battle, the heroes learned that the Scarlet Witch's brother, Quicksilver (Pietro Maximoff), convinced her to alter reality in an effort to save her life, believing the Avengers and X-Men intended to execute her. The confused and deluded Witch ended the battle when, out of sheer frustration at mutant/human tension, she uttered the words "no more mutants" and restored reality to what it had been but with a few significant differences. ***House of M #1-8* (2005)**.

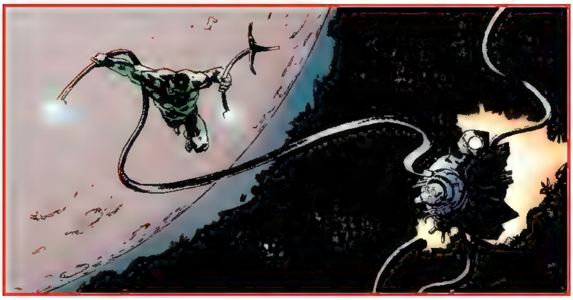
Awaking in a restored reality, the populace of Earth was shocked to learn the mutant race had decreased from over a million beings to around two hundred, their mutant gifts simply erased. Only a handful of the Avengers and X-Men were aware of the reason because Doctor Stephen Strange had protected them when the Scarlet Witch cast her spell. Overnight, the remaining X-Men became the guardians of a race that had suddenly become an endangered species. Also in this restored reality, Hawkeye was returned to life. The **decimation of the mutant race** began in ***House of M #7-8* (2005)** and ***Decimation: House of M—The Day After #1* (2006)**.

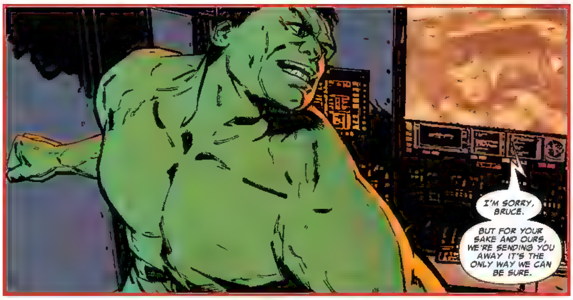


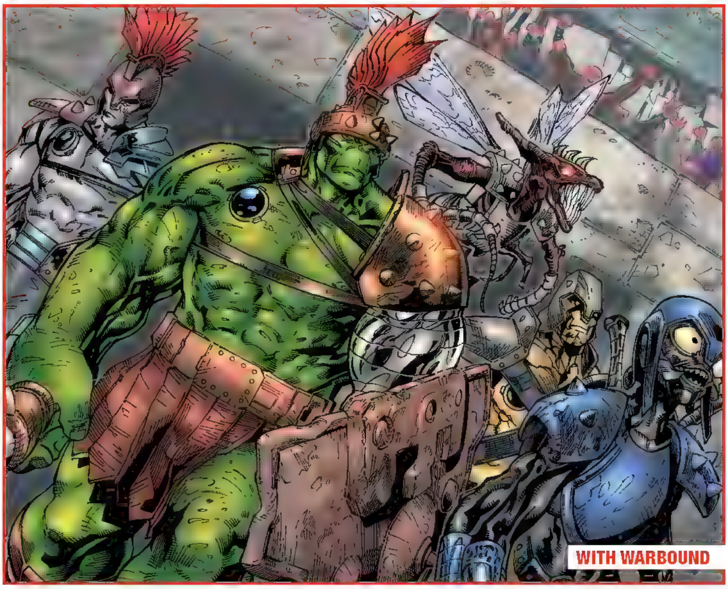


Still in Soviet possession following his "death," James "Bucky" Barnes was revived and given a cybernetic arm to replace the one he lost. Taking advantage of the amnesiac state Barnes was now in, the Soviets brainwashed him into being their assassin, the **Winter Soldier**, who conducted strategic killings across the globe at his masters' behest. While training Natasha Romanoff in the Black Widow program, Barnes began a romantic relationship with her. When his original personality began to resurface, he was placed in suspended animation between missions to avoid him discovering his true self. He was eventually put into storage when the U.S.S.R. collapsed. In modern times, former Soviet general and now head of the Kronas Corporation Aleksander Lukin reactivated the Winter Soldier in a plot to obtain the reality-bending Cosmic Cube. Captain America (Steve Rogers), while working with Nick Fury and S.H.I.E.L.D., discovered the Winter Soldier's true identity and used the Cosmic Cube to restore his friend's memory. Overcome with remorse over his time as a brainwashed assassin, Barnes used the Cosmic Cube to teleport away. ***Captain America #1-14* (2004-2005)** showed Barnes' time as the Winter Soldier and his eventual restoration.

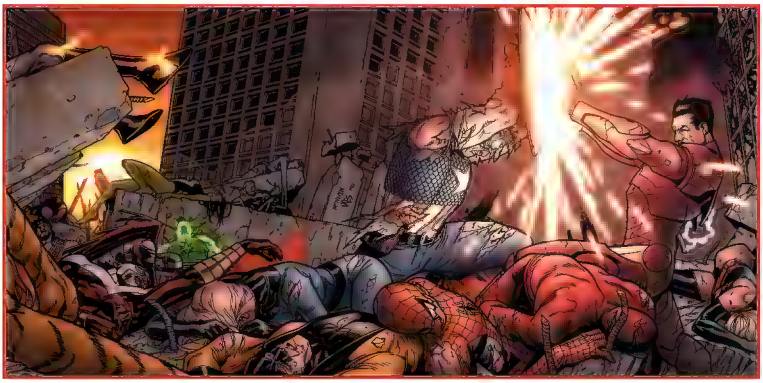

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE.



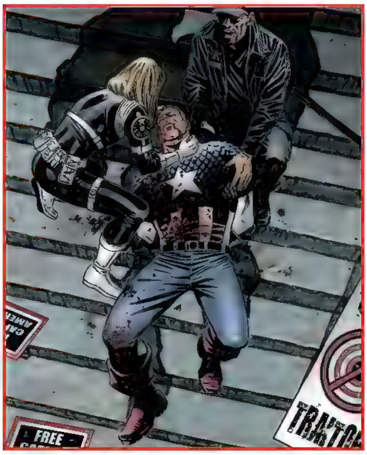

I'M SORRY, BRUCE.
BUT FOR YOUR SAKE AND OURS, WE'RE SENDING YOU AWAY IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE SURE.


WITH WARBOUND

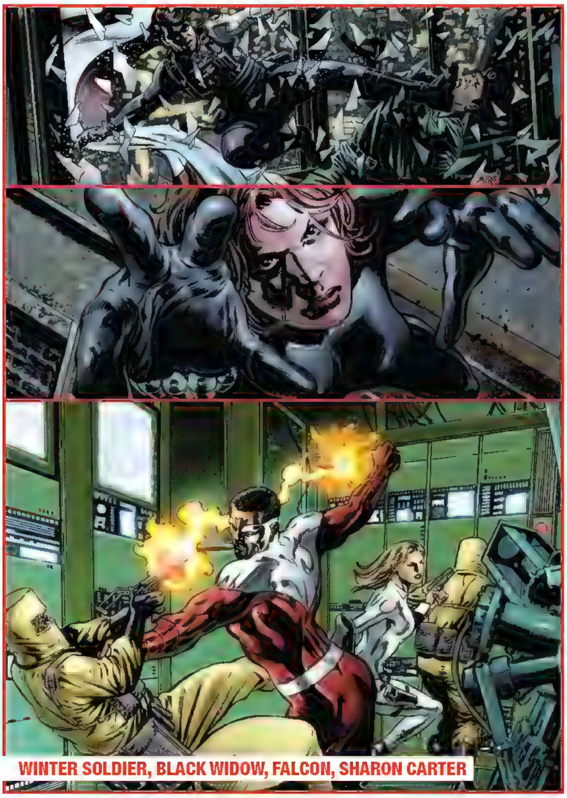
After the Hulk (Bruce Banner) inadvertently killed twenty-six people during a brawl, the so-called "Illuminati" of Mister Fantastic, Iron Man (Tony Stark), Doctor Stephen Strange and the Inhuman King Black Bolt devised a plan to exile him into space. After assisting S.H.I.E.L.D. in destroying a rogue satellite called Godseye, Hulk's ship was seized by the Illuminati, who told the Hulk they were sending him to a planet devoid of intelligent life where he would no longer pose a threat to Earth. Unexpectedly, the ship was pulled into a wormhole, ultimately crashing on the violent world of Sakaar. There, Hulk was enslaved and forced to fight as a gladiator in the Great Arena by the planet's tyrannical ruler, the Red King (Angmo-Asan). Earning the name the Green Scar, the Hulk bonded with several other combatants—becoming the Warbound—and eventually freed the Red King's slaves. Obsessed with killing the Hulk, the Red King unleashed deadly forces upon Sakaar, murdering innocents, which convinced his personal bodyguard, Caiera, to rebel against him. Hulk united Sakaar's warring tribes, defeated the Red King and destroyed his doomsday weapon; the Hulk was made emperor, and in turn he took Caiera as his queen. However, after Caiera told Hulk she was pregnant, the warp core of the ship that exiled the Hulk to Sakaar exploded, killing millions, including Caiera. Unaware his Warbound ally Miek orchestrated the explosion because he was dissatisfied with Hulk's intent to create a peaceful Sakaar, an enraged Hulk blamed the Illuminati and departed Sakaar with his Warbound for Earth. The death of the twenty-six people and the Illuminati's decision to send the Hulk to space was recounted in ***New Avengers: Illuminati #1* (2006)**; the Hulk battled Godseye in ***Incredible Hulk #89-91* (2006)**; the events of **Planet Hulk** took place in the ***Incredible Hulk #92-105* (2006-2007)**.



When the youthful New Warriors staged a poorly planned televised attempt to capture escaped super-powered criminals in Stamford, Connecticut, over 600 civilians were killed when one of the criminals—the explosive Nitro—detonated. Angered by this and the sheer amount of collateral damage caused by superhuman battles, the U.S. Senate passed the Superhuman Registration Act (SHRA), requiring superhumans to register and reveal their identities to the government and then undergo training. A rift quickly formed in the super hero community between those who supported and those who were against the SHRA. Led by Iron Man (Tony Stark), the pro-SHRA forces worked with S.H.I.E.L.D. to apprehend those who refused to register, while anti-SHRA forces led by Captain America (Steve Rogers) continued their heroic activities in secret. After anti-SHRA Goliath (Bill Foster) was killed during a skirmish between the two sides, anti-SHRA forces freed numerous unregistered superhumans from incarceration in the Negative Zone, which ultimately resulted in a massive confrontation in New York City. While personally battling Iron Man, Captain America realized the public supported the SHRA and surrendered, ending hostilities. The superhuman **civil war** was recorded in ***Civil War #1-7* (2006-2007)**.

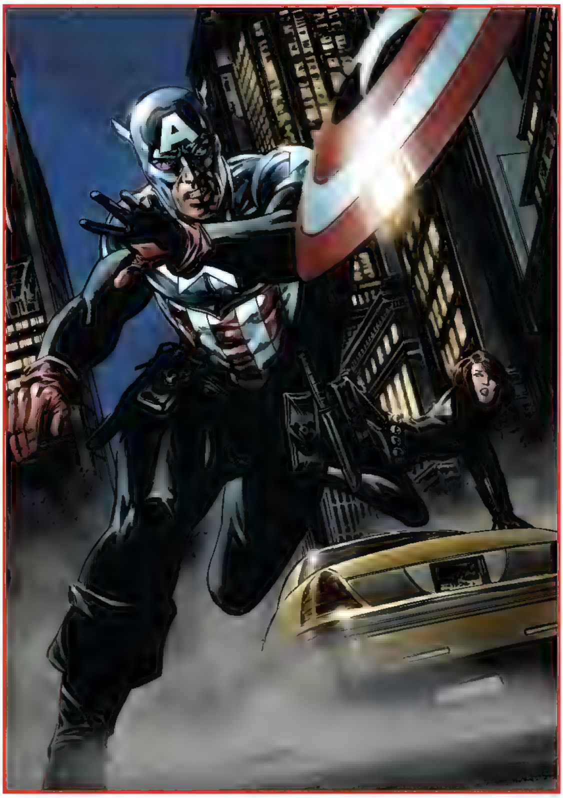


After refusing to comply with the Superhuman Registration Act, Captain America (Steve Rogers) was shot by a sniper as he was led into court to stand trial for his crimes. Additionally, while unknowingly under the brainwashing of Doctor Faustus, Rogers' love Sharon Carter carried out a plan created by Cap's archenemy, the Red Skull (Johann Shmidt), by shooting Rogers in the stomach twice during the chaos created by the sniper's shot. Not realizing what she had done, Carter held Rogers' hand as he died. ***Captain America #25* (2007)**.



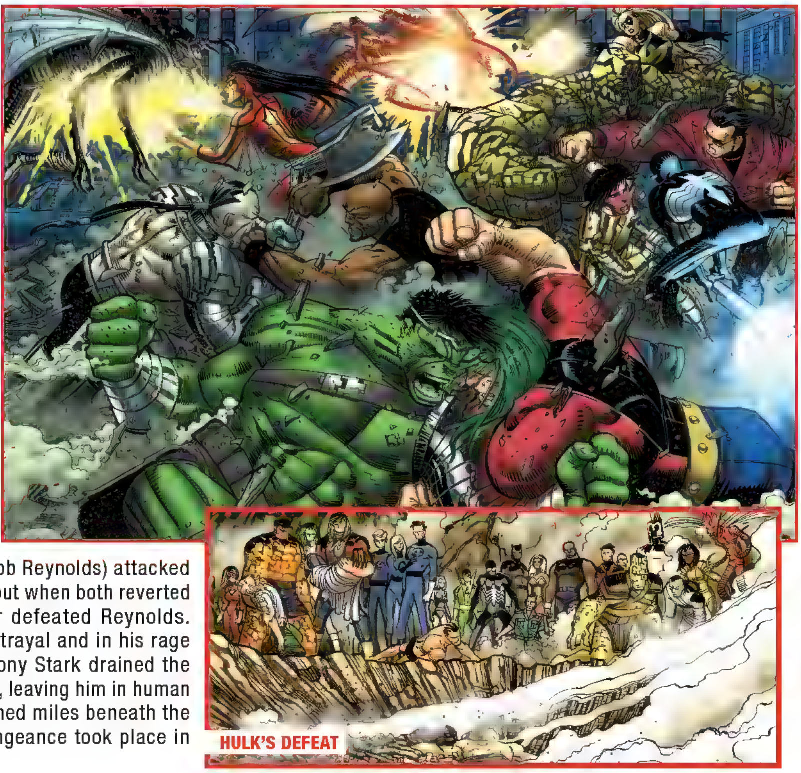
WINTER SOLDIER, BLACK WIDOW, FALCON, SHARON CARTER

Devastated by the loss of Captain America (Steve Rogers), James "Bucky" Barnes began hunting the Red Skull (Johann Shmidt), whom he believed was behind Rogers' death. Eventually Barnes allied with his ex-lover the Black Widow (Natasha Romanoff) and also with Rogers' other close allies the Falcon (Sam Wilson) and Sharon Carter in searching for the Skull; in the process of their search, they all learned of Carter's brainwashing and unwitting culpability in Rogers' death. The quest to locate the Red Skull and discover the truth behind Captain America's death began in earnest in ***Captain America #26*** **(2007)**.



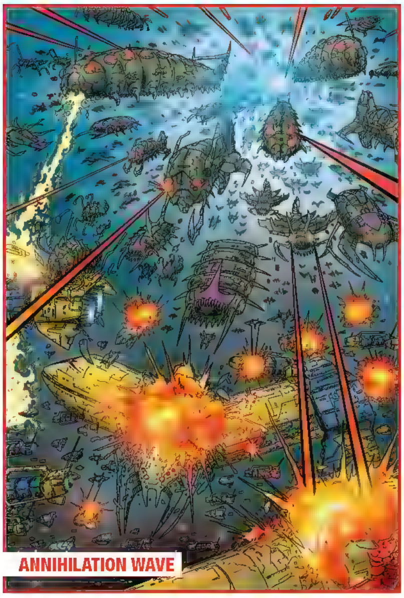
Although he initially felt that his past as the brainwashed Winter Soldier assassin ruled him out, James "Bucky" Barnes decided to claim the shield and role of his best friend and mentor Captain America after reading a letter Steve Rogers left in the case of his death, one that asked for his trusted friends and allies to make sure that Captain America did not also die. At first uncomfortable, Bucky quickly adapted to the use of the shield and took up Cap's task of protecting America and the world both with the Avengers and on his own. **Bucky's tenure as Captain America** began in ***Captain America #33-34*** **(2008)**.

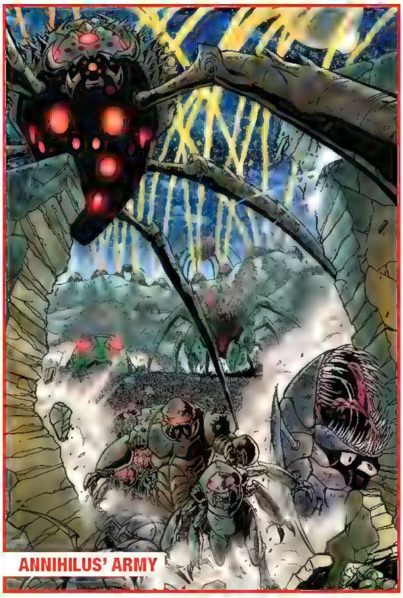
Furious over being exiled to outer space by the so-called "Illuminati," the Hulk (Bruce Banner) returned to Earth with his Warbound allies, intending to exact vengeance on his former friends for sending him there and for the death of his wife, Caiera, who was killed when the ship the Illuminati used to exile the Hulk exploded. The Hulk remained unaware the detonation was orchestrated by one of his Warbound, Miek, who was not happy with the Hulk's plans to bring peace to the planet Sakaar. Upon arriving on Earth, the Hulk ordered the evacuation of Manhattan and gave a twenty-four-hour deadline for the Illuminati to come to him there. After brutally defeating the Illuminati members who banished him—Black Bolt (actually an alien Skrull disguised as him), Mister Fantastic, Iron Man (Tony Stark) and Doctor Stephen Strange—the Hulk forced them to fight each other. When Hulk's former friend the Sentry (Bob Reynolds) attacked him, much of Manhattan was destroyed, but when both reverted to their weaker human forms, Banner defeated Reynolds. After this, the Hulk learned of Miek's betrayal and in his rage threatened to shatter Earth. However, Tony Stark drained the Hulk's energy using advanced technology, leaving him in human form. Banner was subsequently imprisoned miles beneath the Mojave Desert. The Hulk's quest for vengeance took place in ***World War Hulk #1-5*** **(2007)**.

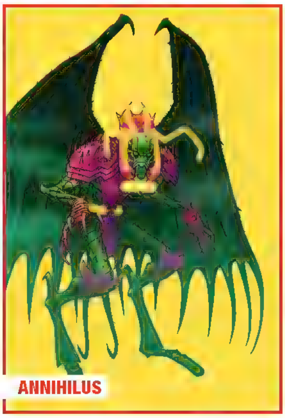


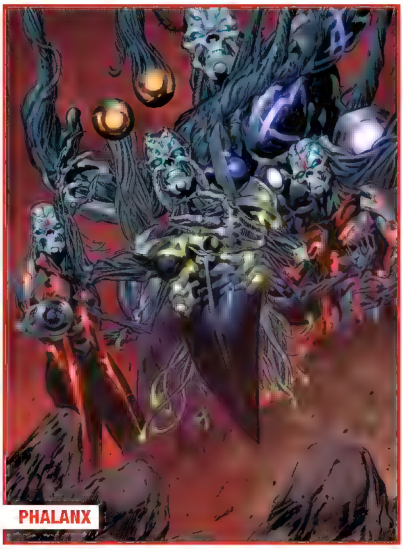
HULK'S DEFEAT

Two consecutive crises devastated the universe: First, seeing all life as a threat to his existence, Annihilus of the Negative Zone launched an ambitious plan to invade the positive universe with his massive insectoid army called the **Annihilation Wave**. For months, the Wave ravaged countless planets and claimed countless lives but was opposed by the United Front army led by Earth's Nova (Richard Rider), the sole remaining member of the Nova Corps, which had been slaughtered by the Wave. The war waged until the united heroes freed Annihilus' captive, the world-devouring Galactus, who destroyed the Wave, and Nova killed Annihilus by gutting him. The second crisis unfolded when the malevolent Earthborn **robot Ultron's consciousness became the guiding force behind the Phalanx**, a hostile extraterrestrial race that assimilated living beings into their hive mind with a Techno-Organic virus. They conquered much of the Kree Empire. Ultron's plans for universal domination accelerated with the possession of the powerful, genetically engineered super-being Adam Warlock, whom Ultron considered a perfect combination of artificial and organic life. Ultron's Phalanx were opposed on numerous fronts by heroes from across the universe, who ultimately destroyed Ultron and rendered the Phalanx inert without his consciousness. Those infected by the Techno-Organic virus were purged of their infection. From the ranks of the heroes who opposed Ultron arose the **Guardians of the Galaxy**, a peacekeeping force of various heroes under the leadership of Star-Lord (Peter Quill). Over time, the Guardians roster included the assassin Gamora, furry tactical genius Rocket Raccoon, the violent Drax the Destroyer, the giant treelike Groot and half-Kree Phyla-Vell, daughter of the deceased Captain Marvel (Mar-Vell). The Annihilation Wave was recorded in ***Annihilation: Prologue #1*** **(2006)** and ***Annihilation #1-6*** **(2006-2007)**. The Kree Empire was devastated by Ultron and the Phalanx in ***Annihilation: Conquest Prologue #1*** **(2007)** and ***Annihilation: Conquest #1-6*** **(2007)**. The Guardians of the Galaxy's formation began in ***Annihilation: Conquest—Starlord #1*** (2007) and ***Guardians of the Galaxy #1*** **(2008)**.


ANNIHILATION WAVE


ANNIHILUS' ARMY


ANNIHILUS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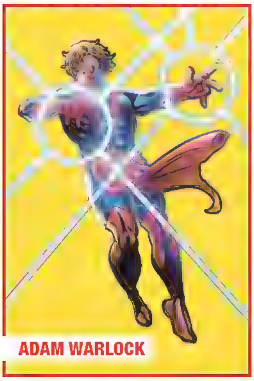
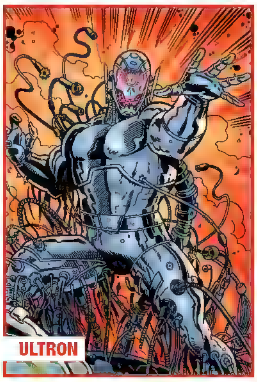
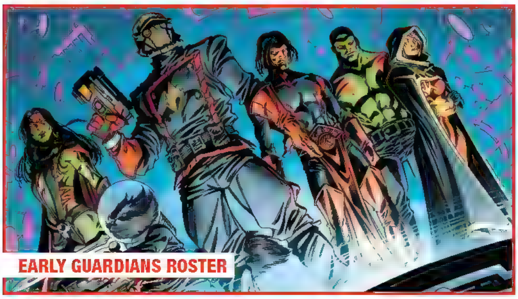
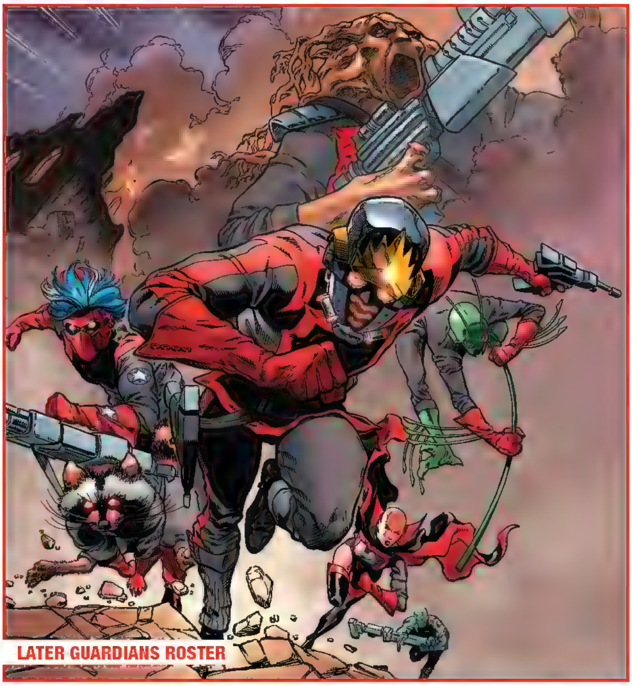
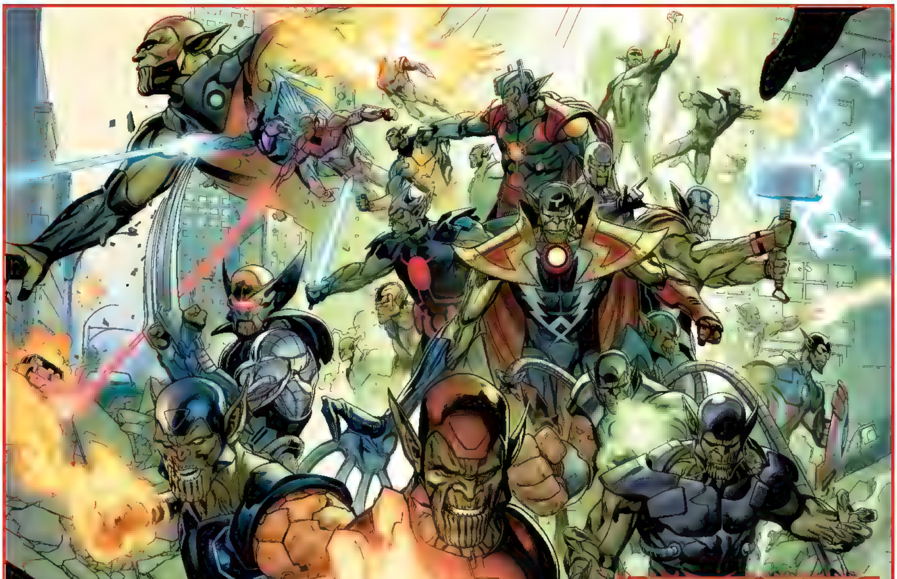
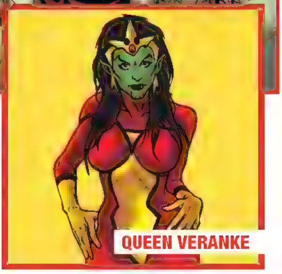

ADAM WARLOCK


ULTRON


EARLY GUARDIANS ROSTER

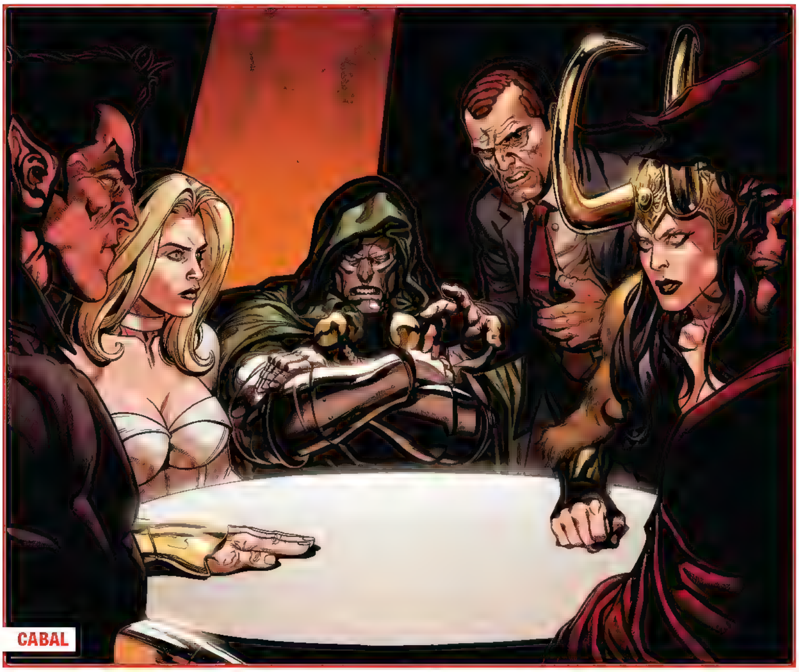

LATER GUARDIANS ROSTER





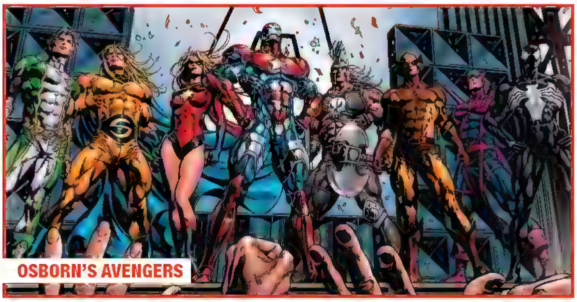
QUEEN VERANKE

After the planet-devouring Galactus destroyed their homeworld, a fanatically religious faction of the shape-shifting Skrull aliens led by Queen Veranke began a long-term **secret invasion** of Earth. After abducting and replacing various key humans with undetectable Skrull impostors—including Henry Pym, Hand leader Elektra Natchios, agents "Dum Dum" Dugan and Valentina de Fontaine of the peacekeeping S.H.I.E.L.D. organization and Avengers butler Edwin Jarvis—Queen Veranke herself joined the Avengers disguised as Spider-Woman (Jessica Drew). After some time spent manipulating events to weaken Earth's defenses, the Skrulls disabled every piece of technology created by Tony Stark (Iron Man), including that used by S.H.I.E.L.D. and Earth's extraterrestrial espionage agency S.W.O.R.D., trapped the Avengers in the Savage Land and unleashed a horde of super-powered Super-Skrull warriors. Eventually, Mister Fantastic invented a device to detect the hidden Skrulls, allowing Earth's superhumans to marshal their forces and confront Veranke's army in Central Park; following a massive battle, the Skrulls were defeated, and Thunderbolts leader, the secretly criminally insane Norman Osborn, publicly executed Veranke. The humans replaced by Skrull impostors were located, Tony Stark was blamed for Earth's vulnerability and Norman Osborn became a hero in the eyes of the public. ***Secret Invasion #1-8*** **(2008-2009)**.

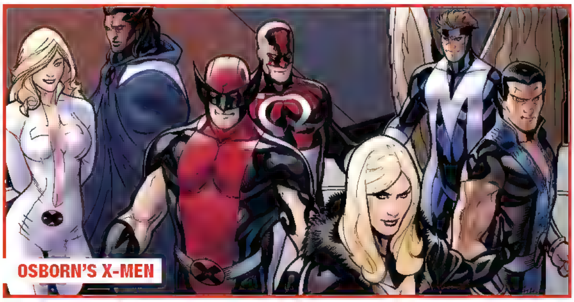


CABAL

Hailed as a hero after killing the invading Skrull Queen Veranke, secretly corrupt Norman Osborn was given control of the world's superhuman infrastructure. He consolidated several of his villainous or morally ambiguous allies—Doctor Doom (Victor Von Doom), Namor (McKenzie), Loki (Laufeyson), the Hood (Parker Robbins) and Emma Frost—into the Cabal, a secret ruling council. Osborn dissolved S.H.I.E.L.D. and replaced it with H.A.M.M.E.R., a fascist organization molded in his own image; formed his own team of Avengers, largely composed of unrepentant super villains disguised as established heroes and led by him as the armored Iron Patriot; and created a private team of X-Men, which he used to address mutant issues that could impact him. Osborn callously used his new power to pursue his own vendettas and settle grudges, all the while privately persecuting legitimate heroes and secretly enabling crime. Norman Osborn's **dark reign** began in ***Secret Invasion #8*** **(2009)**, and much of it played out in ***Secret Invasion: Dark Reign #1*** **(2009)** and ***Dark Avengers #1-16*** **(2009-2010)**; Osborn's team of X-Men first appeared in ***Uncanny X-Men #513*** **(2009)**.

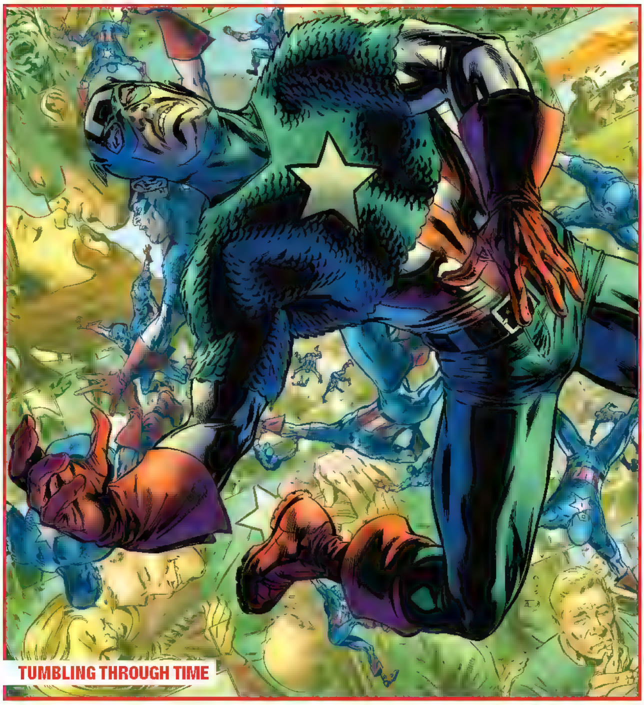


OSBORN'S AVENGERS

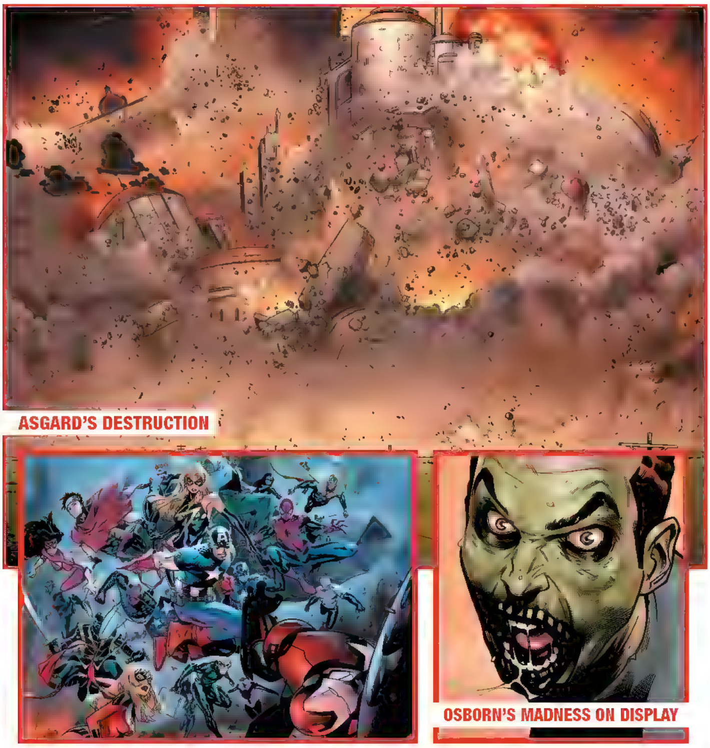


OSBORN'S X-MEN

While held captive by Doctor Faustus and the Red Skull (Johann Shmidt), Sharon Carter broke Faustus' brainwashing and observed experiments that made her believe that somehow Steve Rogers was alive. When Carter was rescued by the Falcon (Sam Wilson), the Black Widow (Natasha Romanoff) and Captain America (James "Bucky" Barnes), Aleksander Lukin—the body housing the Red Skull's consciousness—was killed; however, the Skull's mind was uploaded to a robotic body similar to one used by his occasional ally Arnim Zola. Sometime later, Carter found the gun she was forced to use to shoot Rogers and learned it did not fire traditional bullets, confirming for her that Rogers was not dead. In actuality, the "bullets" knocked Rogers out of sync with time, causing him to relive key moments of his life. Rogers was then summoned back to the present so the Red Skull could usurp Rogers' revived body. While the Skull's forces battled Rogers' gathered friends on the National Mall, Rogers and the Skull battled within their now-shared mindscape; Cap forced the Skull out, sending him back to his Zola-made body, which was eventually destroyed by Rogers and the superhuman friends he rallied to his side. Later, after witnessing Barnes in action as Captain America, Rogers told him to continue in the role. Sharon Carter's rescue and the transfer of the Red Skull's consciousness took place in ***Captain America #42* (2008)**; Sharon Carter confirmed Steve Rogers was not dead in ***Captain America #600* (2009)**; the Red Skull's defeat and **the return of Steve Rogers** was recorded in ***Captain America: Reborn #1-6* (2009-2010)**; Rogers told Bucky to continue as Captain America in ***Captain America: Who Will Wield the Shield? #1* (2010)**.



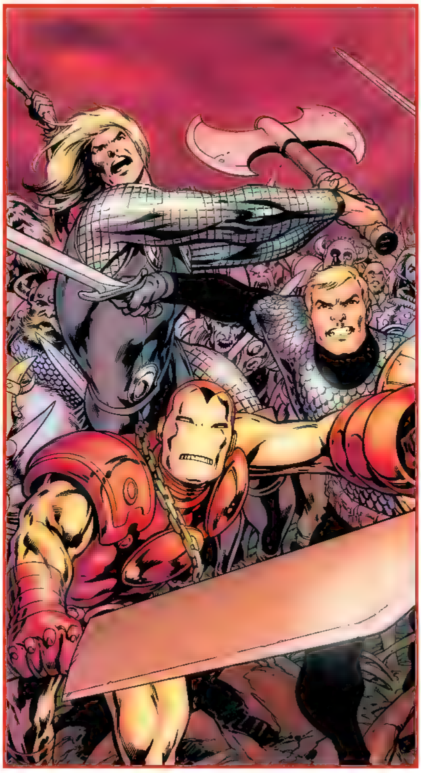
TUMBLING THROUGH TIME



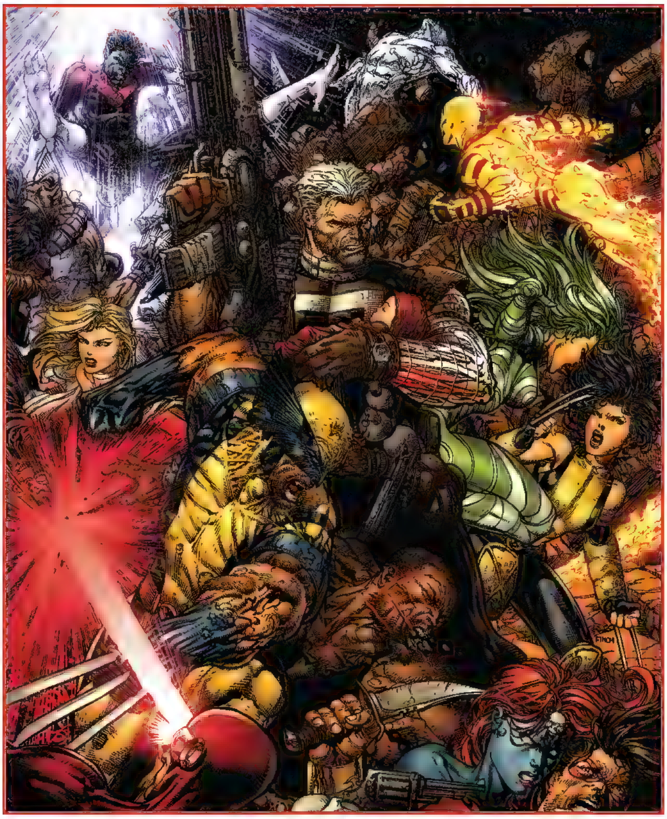
ASGARD'S DESTRUCTION

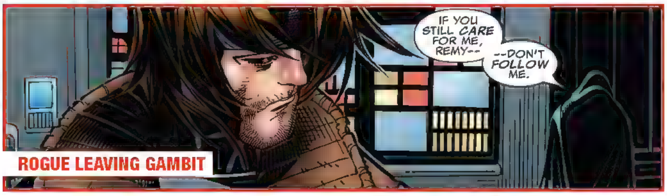
OSBORN'S MADNESS ON DISPLAY

Maddened with power and manipulated by Loki (Laufeyson), Norman Osborn attempted the destruction of Asgard, which was then located over Broxton, Oklahoma, and which Osborn had come to see as a threat. Denied permission to attack Asgard by the U.S. president, Osborn orchestrated a battle between the U-Foes and the Asgardian Volstagg in Chicago as a pretext, then led his private team of Avengers (largely staffed by villains in disguise) and H.A.M.M.E.R. on a full-scale assault of Asgard. Before long, the battle was joined by the true Avengers and other superhumans, now led by the returned Steve Rogers (who temporarily borrowed the Captain America role from James "Bucky" Barnes). During the conflict, Osborn's ally, the schizophrenic Sentry, reverted to his evil Void persona and turned on both friend and foe alike, ravaging Asgard before Thor Odinson apparently slew him. With his forces in shambles, Osborn was defeated and imprisoned by the Avengers; Osborn's secret insanity was laid bare for the world to see when his face, painted as his former villainous Green Goblin persona, was televised. Following these events, Steve Rogers was appointed as commander of the U.S. superhuman forces, and the Superhuman Registration Act was repealed. ***Siege #1-4* (2010)**.

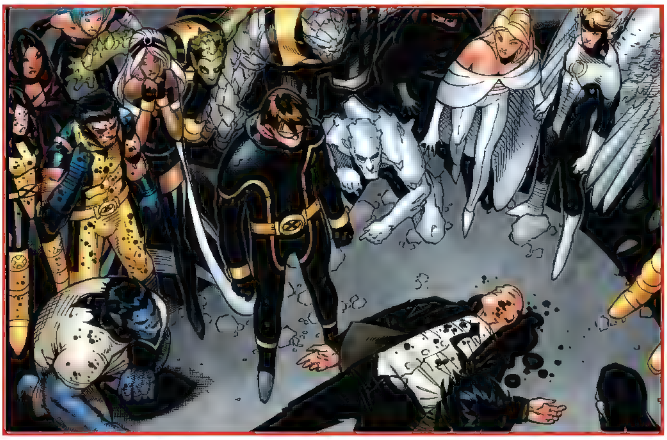


Reunited teammates Thor Odinson, Iron Man (Tony Stark) and Steve Rogers (formerly Captain America) were forced to confront the tension and animosity between them—much of it caused by the Superhuman Registration Act and the superhuman civil war—when the destruction of Asgard resulted in the tangling of multiple realms and dimensions. Forced to work together to prevent the ascension of the Asgardian Goddess of Death, Hela, the three heroes set aside their differences to bring together an army to defeat Hela. ***Avengers Prime #1-5* (2010)** tells the tale of these three men taking the first steps toward trusting and caring for each other again.




IF YOU STILL CARE FOR ME, REMY--
--DON'T FOLLOW ME.

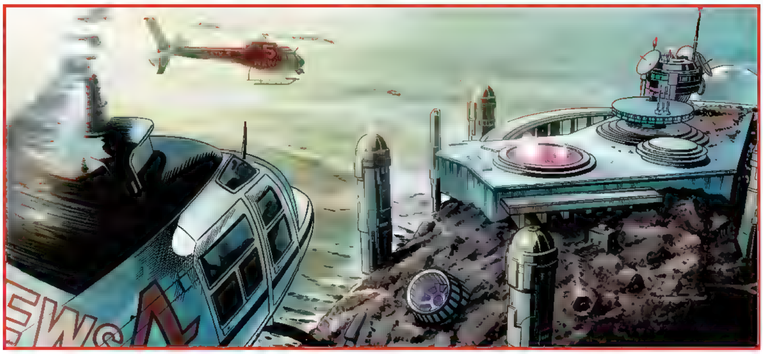
ROGUE LEAVING GAMBIT

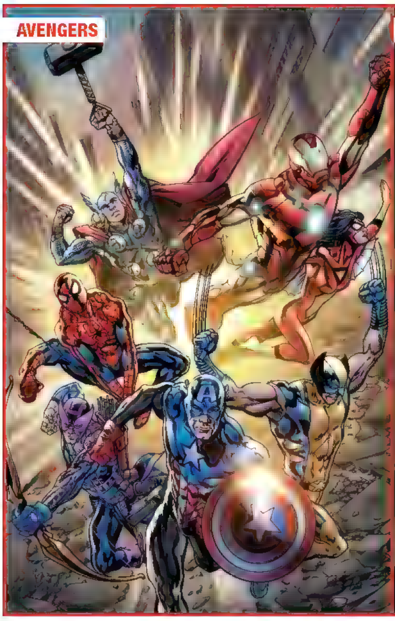


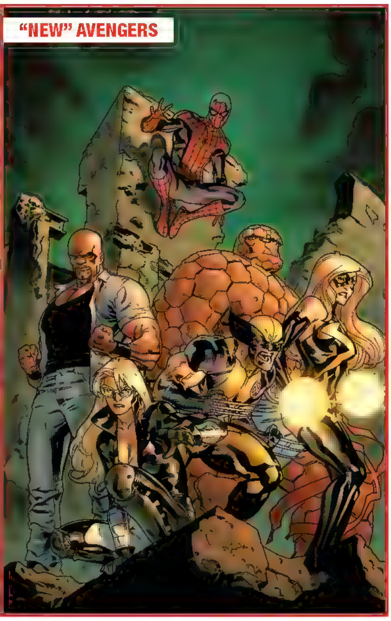
Complications continued in the **romance between Rogue and Gambit**: Thinking he could help stop Apocalypse from within, Gambit infiltrated Apocalypse's camp but was not prepared for the brainwashing that accompanied his transformation into the Horseman Death. Sometime later, Apocalypse's work was reversed by mad geneticist Mister Sinister, leaving Gambit in his debt. Simultaneously, when an alien creature threatened to consume all lives on Earth, Rogue used her power to absorb the psyche and powers of anyone she touched to end its threat. Unfortunately, Rogue absorbed the eight billion souls the alien had previously consumed into her own mind, leaving her on the brink of insanity.

Amid this, a mutant baby was born in Alaska, the first since the spell cast by the Scarlet Witch (Wanda Maximoff) that had left mutantkind nearly extinct. The birth provoked a war between forces that wanted the baby: the X-Men, who wanted to protect it; the Purifiers, who wanted to kill it; the Marauders (including the indebted Gambit), who wanted to obtain it for Mister Sinister. All parties remained unaware for a time that the time-traveling Cable (Nathan Summers) had taken the baby into his protection. Additionally, believing the child's death could prevent the dystopian future from which he had come from happening, X-Man Lucas Bishop began maniacally seeking the child, and the mutant-devouring Predator X started hunting the baby to consume it. While trying to safeguard the child, Cyclops sent a duplicate of the Multiple Man (Jamie Madrox) to Bishop's future to learn how mutantkind had survived into those years. Unexpectedly, Madrox's friend Layla Miller accompanied him to the future, became stranded there and was eventually incarcerated in a mutant concentration camp. Desperate to win the war, Cyclops sanctioned X-Force, a strike team that employed lethal methods, to search for the baby and execute the war's other factions. After Mister Sinister took possession of the baby, Rogue's desperate foster mother, Mystique (Raven Darkhölme), pressed the mutant infant's skin against Rogue's, hoping this could cure Rogue of the eight billion souls trapped in her mind. Though Mystique was correct, Rogue was furious that Mystique risked the baby to save her, broadening the already-existing rift between them. Cable reclaimed the infant and teleported into the future. At this moment, Bishop desperately fired at the baby, instead unintentionally striking X-Men founder Charles Xavier in the head. The Acolytes, led by Exodus (Bennet du Paris), kidnapped Xavier's body through telepathic trickery and secretly healed his wounds. Reunited with Gambit at last, Rogue refused to reconnect with him, instead leaving on her own to recover from her traumas. Gambit first became Death in ***X-Men #184*** **(2006)** and was returned to normal in ***X-Men #200*** **(2007)**. Rogue absorbed eight billion minds in ***X-Men #199*** **(2007)**. The **war over the first mutant baby** began in ***X-Men: Messiah Complex #1*** **(2007)** and concluded in ***X-Men #207*** **(2007)**. A depiction of Bishop's future can be found in ***Bishop: Xavier Security Enforcer #1-3*** **(1998)**. Xavier's survival was revealed in ***X-Men: Legacy #208*** **(2008)**.

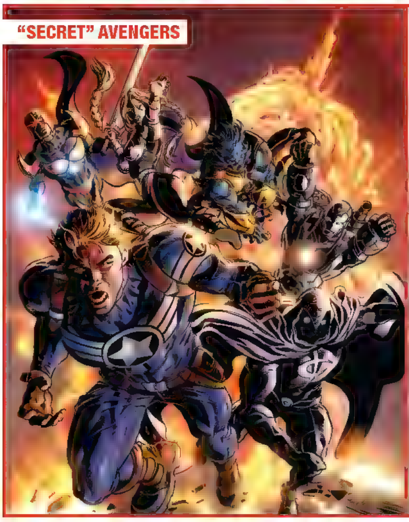
After the war, the X-Men disbanded for a time but eventually gathered in California's Bay Area and re-established the school and team's mission there. When corrupt businessman Norman Osborn made moves against mutantkind, including attacking them with his own secretly villainous Avengers and X-Men and supporting anti-mutant legislation, the true X-Men created an artificial island off the coast of California and established a sovereign mutant nation. Utopia was born. The X-Men moved to California in ***Uncanny X-Men #500*** **(2008)**, and the **establishment of Utopia** began in ***Dark Avengers/Uncanny X-Men: Utopia #1*** **(2009)**.

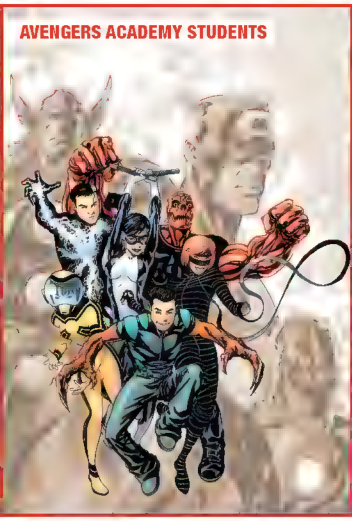


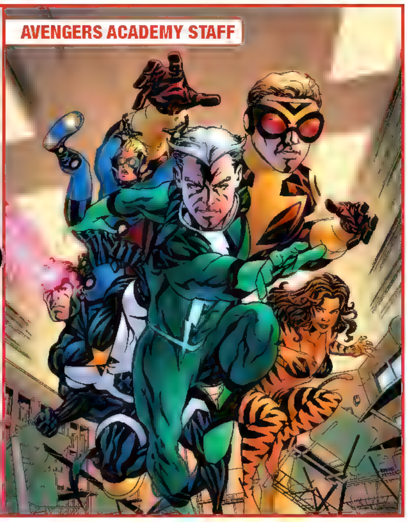

AVENGERS


"NEW" AVENGERS

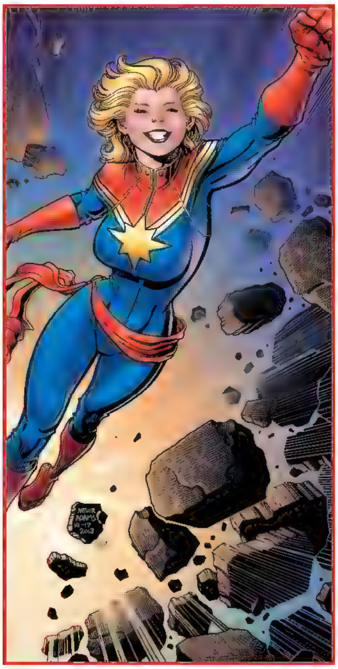
Following the ousting of Norman Osborn and the repeal of the Superhuman Registration Act, the U.S. government installed Steve Rogers as the director of U.S. superhuman operations and charged him with reorganizing the Avengers. Rogers established multiple Avengers teams, each with a former S.H.I.E.L.D. agent as his liaison—an Avengers Tower-based team supervised by Maria Hill, an Avengers Mansion-based team overseen by Victoria Hand and the covert operations-centered "secret" Avengers directly overseen by Rogers and Sharon Carter. Rogers also established the Avengers Academy, a school headed by Henry Pym and founded to mentor a group of young superhumans previously approached by Norman Osborn as potential recruits for his dark plans. Rogers and Pym hoped Avengers training would guide the students away from a villainous path. This new **heroic age** for the Avengers began in ***Avengers #1-6*** **(2010)**, ***New Avengers #1-6*** **(2010)** and ***Secret Avengers #1-5*** **(2010)**. The founding of Avengers Academy took place in ***Avengers Academy #1-2*** **(2010)**.


"SECRET" AVENGERS

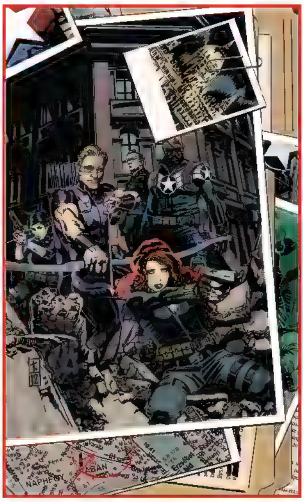

AVENGERS ACADEMY STUDENTS

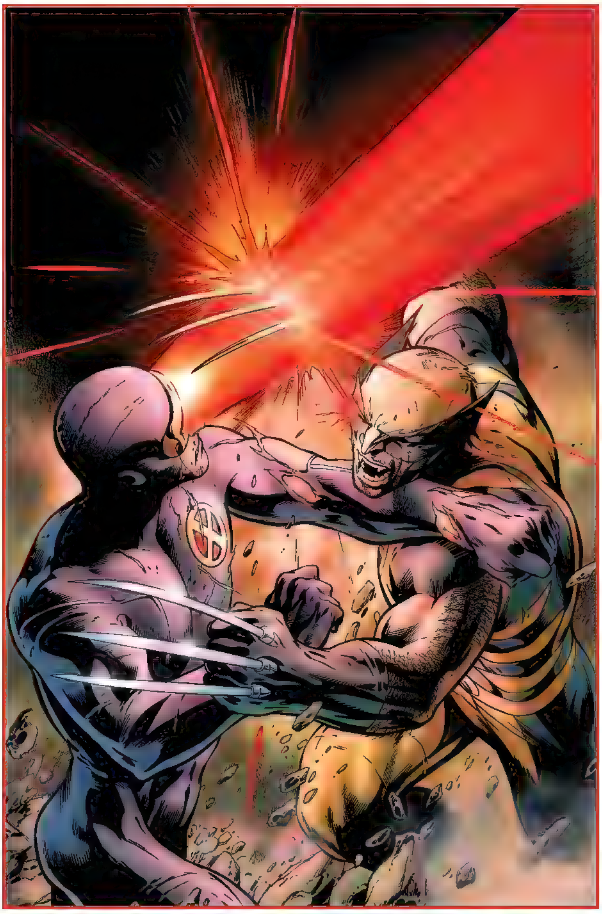

AVENGERS ACADEMY STAFF

Sometime after a brief war between the Avengers and X-Men, Carol Danvers set aside her Ms. Marvel identity, adopted a new uniform and claimed the Captain Marvel title. She was encouraged to do so by Captain America, inspired by her late friend Mar-Vell and buoyed by memories of her life as Earth's greatest hero in the House of M reality warp. Danvers' time as Captain Marvel in the House of M reality (Earth-58163) was shown in ***House of M #1-8*** **(2005)**. She first appeared as Captain Marvel in the mainstream Marvel reality (Earth-616) in ***Avenging Spider-Man #9-10*** **(2012)** and ***Captain Marvel #1*** **(2012)**.

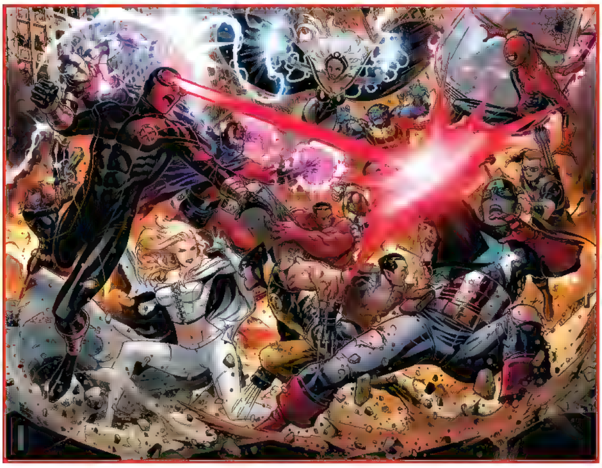


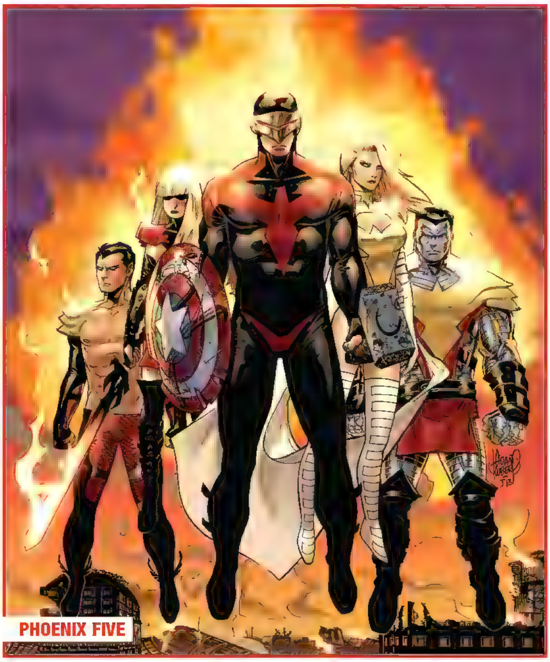
The peacekeeping S.H.I.E.L.D. returned after being replaced by H.A.M.M.E.R. during Norman Osborn's dark reign. Serving in this reorganized agency was Marcus Johnson, a soldier who learned longtime S.H.I.E.L.D. Director Nick Fury was his father. After claiming his birth name of **Nick Fury Jr.**, he and his great friend **Phil Coulson** became agents of good standing. Together they recruited Avengers Hawkeye (Clint Barton) and Black Widow (Natasha Romanoff) to lead a clandestine black-ops team that would have mission intelligence and objectives wiped from their memories after each classified operation. Other agents included seismic-powered Quake (Daisy Johnson) and spy Mockingbird (Bobbi Morse). Maria Hill spearheaded a later roster, which included Spider-Woman (Jessica Drew). The story of Nick Fury and Phil Coulson was told in ***Battle Scars #1-6*** **(2012)**. The missions of the Secret Avengers began unfolding in ***Secret Avengers #1*** **(2013)** and ***Secret Avengers #1*** **(2014)**.





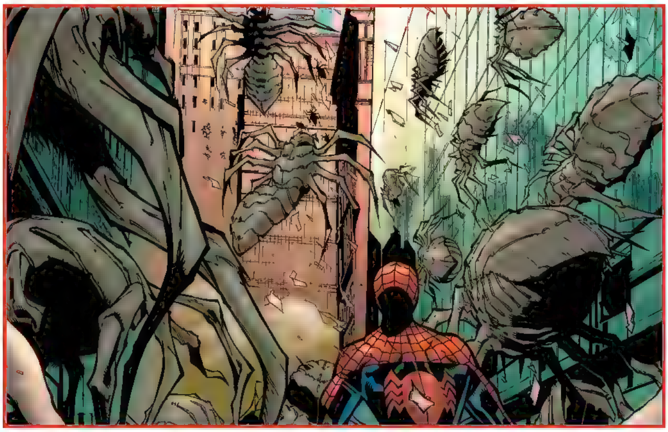
When a philosophical disagreement over whether their mutant wards should fight in battle fundamentally divided the leadership of the X-Men, the **schism** exploded in a physical confrontation between Cyclops (Scott Summers) and Wolverine (Logan/James Howlett). This split the team: half staying with Cyclops in California, the other half returning to New York with Wolverine to re-establish a school where mutants could be taught the use of their powers without combat. The breaking of the X-Men took place in ***X-Men: Schism #1-5* (2011)** and ***X-Men: Regenesis #1* (2011)** and continued in ***Wolverine and the X-Men #1* (2011)** and ***Uncanny X-Men #1* (2012)**. Not long after this, **a massive worldwide war erupted between the Avengers and the X-Men** when the Phoenix Force was detected on a course for Earth. Cyclops believed that the Phoenix Force could be used to reignite mutantkind after the Scarlet Witch (Wanda Maximoff) brought it to the brink of extinction, while the Avengers believed the Phoenix Force posed a vast threat to Earth and should be repelled. When Tony Stark (Iron Man) unintentionally caused the Phoenix Force to split, it took five X-Men as hosts. These Phoenix Five were Cyclops, Emma Frost, Namor (McKenzie), Colossus (Peter Rasputin) and Magik (Illyana Rasputin). The Phoenix Force eventually corrupted Cyclops, who took the Phoenix Force from the other four. During a battle with both the Avengers and the X-Men, the power-mad Cyclops killed Charles Xavier. The Scarlet Witch and the now-teenaged, vastly powerful Hope Summers defeated Cyclops, then Hope dispersed the Phoenix Force, which reignited the mutant gene on Earth, undoing the Scarlet Witch's spell at long last. Cyclops was imprisoned for his actions. ***Avengers vs. X-Men #1-12* (2012)** and ***AvX: Consequences #1-5* (2012-2013)**.

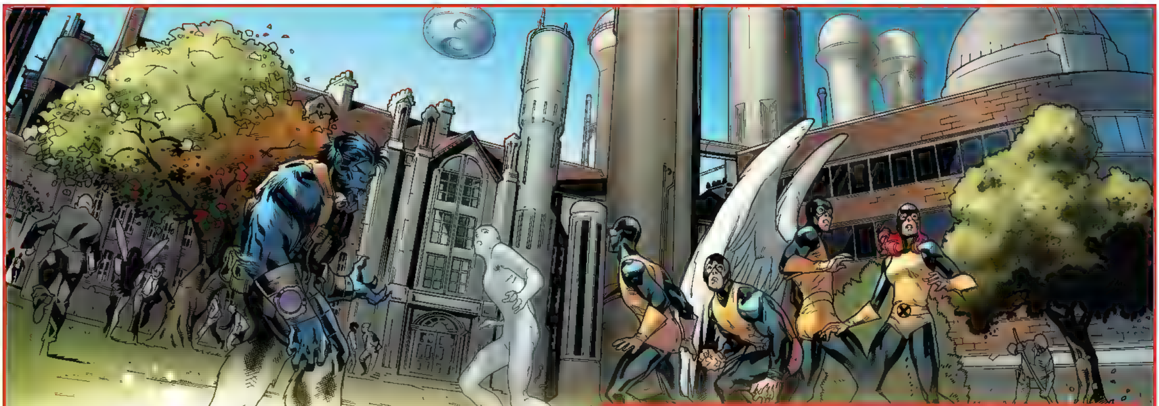




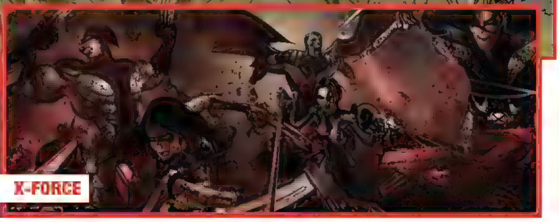
PHOENIX FIVE

At the command of arthropod-powered conqueror the Queen (Ana Soria), the deranged Jackal (Miles Warren) infested Manhattan with mutated bedbugs whose bite caused the populace to develop spiderlike powers, transforming the city into a **Spider-Island**. As the infestation spread, these spider-powered individuals started causing chaos across the entire city, prompting Spider-Man (Peter Parker), the Avengers and numerous other heroes to intervene. The infected began to mutate into giant spiders, all under the Queen's mental control. The power she drew from her new subjects transformed her into a gigantic spider-creature. Parker's colleagues at Horizon Labs synthesized a cure, and while the assembled heroes battled the Queen, Spider-Man commandeered millions of tiny robots to administer the cure. Her powers weakened, the Queen was apparently slain in a subsequent battle. ***Amazing Spider-Man #666-672* (2011-2012)**.

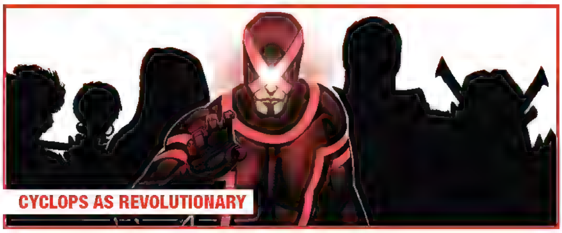




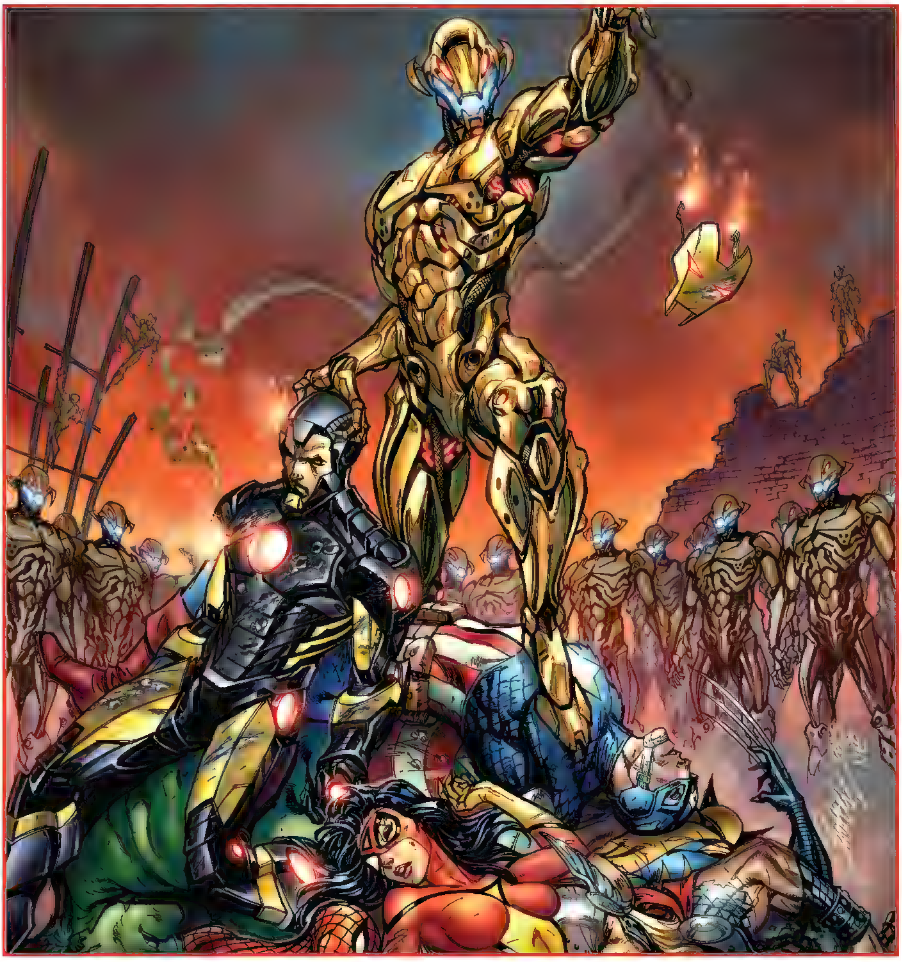
Scott Summers (Cyclops) had gone down a dark path by sanctioning a sub-squad of X-Men who were assassins (X-Force), killing Charles Xavier while possessed by the Phoenix Force and becoming a mutant revolutionary after breaking out of jail. Distraught, the Beast (Hank McCoy) traveled back in time to recruit younger versions of the original five X-Men (himself, Cyclops, Angel/Warren Worthington III, Iceman/Bobby Drake and Marvel Girl/Jean Grey) to follow him to the future. Beast hoped they could convince Cyclops his idea of a mutant revolution was wrong and that protecting mutantkind could be accomplished without lethal and bloody methods. Aghast at this future, the time-displaced X-Men stayed to work toward preventing their apparent destiny. X-Force formed in ***Uncanny X-Men #493*** **(2008)**, and their missions continued in ***X-Force #1*** **(2008)**. Cyclops killed Xavier in ***Avengers vs. X-Men #11*** **(2012)**; his mutant revolutionary mission began in ***AvX: Consequences #5*** **(2013)**. **Beast brought the original five X-Men forward in time** in ***All-New X-Men #1-6*** **(2013)**.



X-FORCE



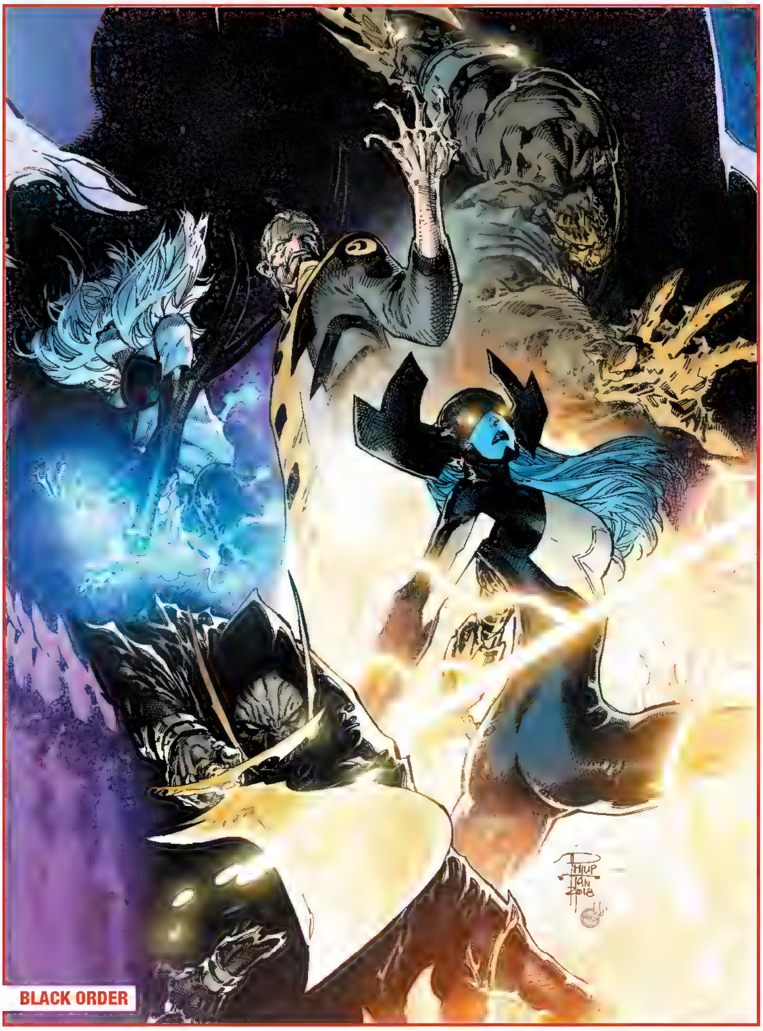
CYCLOPS AS REVOLUTIONARY



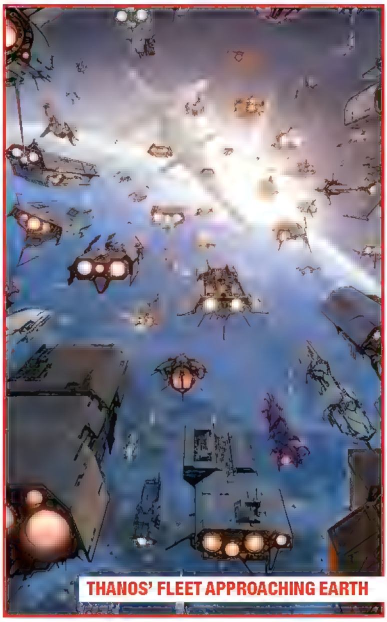
Years into a potential future, the robot Ultron took over his creation, the synthezoid Vision, and used him as a time conduit to launch a full-scale surprise invasion of present-day Earth with hundreds of drone replicas. Within days, populations were decimated and subjugated. A giant domed city built on top of New York City served as Ultron's base. Most of Earth's few surviving heroes sheltered in a crashed S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier, hidden by the ingenuity of Tony Stark (Iron Man). Desperate to defeat Ultron, Wolverine (Logan/James Howlett) and the Invisible Woman (Susan Richards) time-traveled to the past and ultimately convinced Avenger and Ultron creator Henry Pym to plant a hidden fail-safe virus in Ultron and forget the task. Pym recorded a video message for Richards to pass on to the future Pym at the moment that Ultron attacked, enabling the fail-safe to deactivate Ultron and stop the invasion, thus diverging the Ultron-controlled timeline to Earth-61112. The **Age of Ultron** is chronicled in ***Age of Ultron #1-10*** **(2013)**.

HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #6 ANNOTATIONS

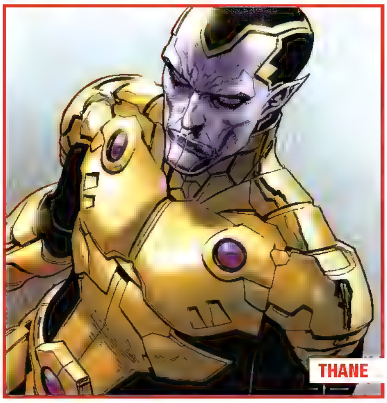
Design: Stacie Zucker



BLACK ORDER

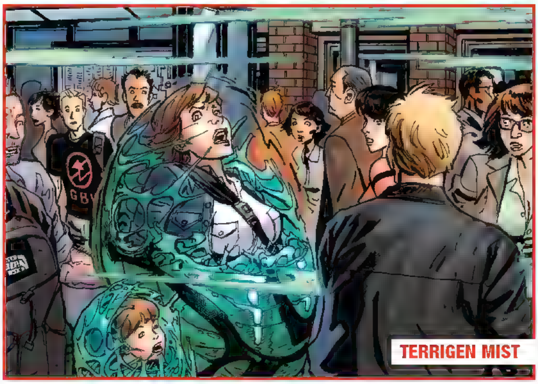


THANOS' FLEET APPROACHING EARTH

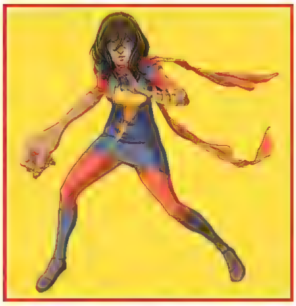


THANE

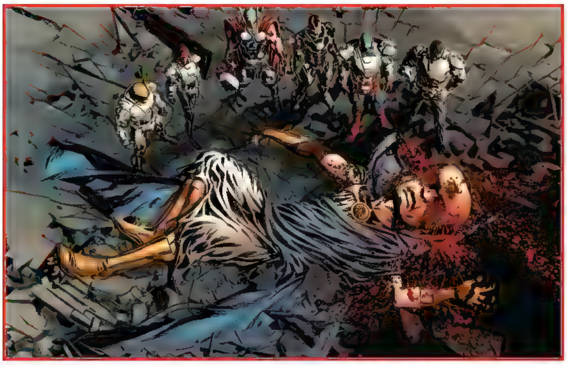
When the Avengers learned the alien Builders race was mercilessly attacking dozens of star systems and was on a course for Earth, they took to space to battle them, eventually assembling a coalition of alien races and triumphing over the Builders. Meanwhile, Thanos continued his crusade of killing any children he'd fathered across the universe as a tribute to his beloved Death. Seeing Earth undefended, he and his elite enforcers, the Black Order, launched an all-out assault, seeking a child he had sired with an Inhuman years earlier. When Thanos attacked Attilan, Inhuman King Black Bolt destroyed the city using a bomb that also unleashed a mutagenic Terrigen Cloud that spread worldwide, empowering humans with Inhuman ancestry. Among those affected was Thane, the object of Thanos' search; using his new powers, he trapped Thanos in a torturous state between life and death. ***Infinity #1-6* (2013-2014)**. The Black Order first appeared in ***Infinity #1* (2013)**; Thanos' mission to slaughter his offspring was recorded in ***Thanos Rising #1-5* (2013)**; Thane first appeared in ***New Avengers #10* (2013)**.

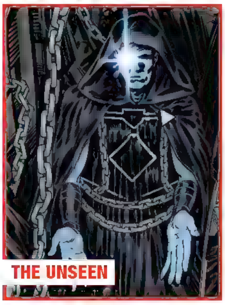


TERRIGEN MIST

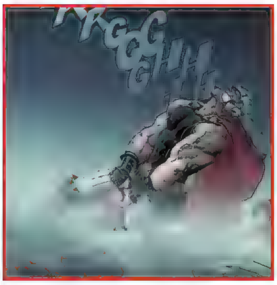


One of the nascent Inhumans empowered by the Terrigen Cloud was Jersey City teenager Kamala Khan, an avowed fan of Earth's heroes, particularly Captain Marvel (Carol Danvers). Now able to reshape her body in whole or in part and inspired by one of Danvers' previous costumed identities, Khan became **Ms. Marvel**, earning membership in the Avengers for her heroic deeds defending her hometown. She soon co-founded the Champions alongside other young heroes. Khan's first full appearance was in ***All-New Marvel Now! Point One #1*** **(2014)**.

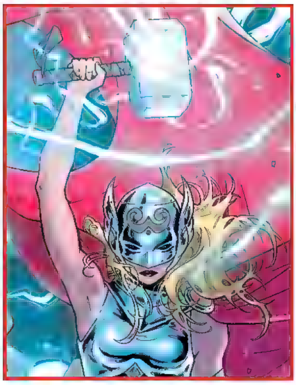




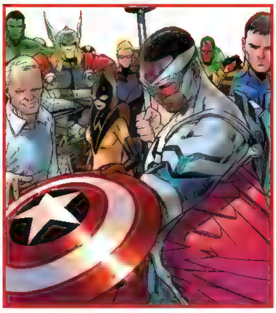
When one of Uatu the Watcher's eyes was stolen, World War II hero Nick Fury—the current clandestine protector of Earth called the Man on the Wall—arrived to aid him, but Uatu held to his oath of noninterference and refused to tell Fury who the thief was. Realizing Uatu's secrets were stored in his eyes and fearing an untold number of lives were in danger, Fury was forced to kill Uatu and steal the remaining eye. Soon after, Fury gathered his allies and began an "investigation" into Uatu's murder that led to the criminal Orb, who was working with the psychotic, power-seeking Doctor Midas to gain the Watcher's power. The Orb activated Uatu's eye, causing an explosion that revealed long-hidden secrets to the gathered heroes, fostering mass chaos in America's superhuman community. Fury revealed himself as the Man on the Wall to his friends and that he was the Watcher's murderer. Fury defeated an eye-empowered Doctor Midas but vanished in the resulting explosion. Believed dead, Fury had gained the Watcher's secrets but was exiled to the moon to assume the Watcher's task of watching without interference; Nick Fury had become the Unseen. With Fury gone, the Winter Soldier became the new Man on the Wall. The **Original Sin** affair was related in ***Original Sin #1-8*** **(2014)**.



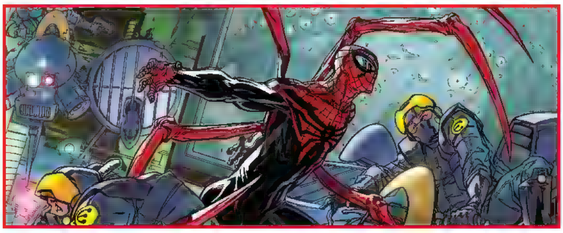
Sometime before battling Nick Fury, Thor faced a being named Gorr the God Butcher, whose mission was to destroy all gods. Though Thor was ultimately triumphant over Gorr, it only took the now-cosmically empowered Nick Fury whispering the words "Gorr was right" to Thor to solidify the doubts Gorr has sown in Thor's mind—that all gods were vain and violent creatures and not deserving of worship. Fury's words caused Thor to become unworthy of wielding his hammer, Mjolnir, and lose his status as the god of thunder. Thor's battle against Gorr began in ***Thor: God of Thunder #1*** **(2012)**; Fury whispered to Thor in ***Original Sin #7*** **(2014)**; the content of Fury's whisper was revealed in ***Unworthy Thor #1-5*** **(2017)**.



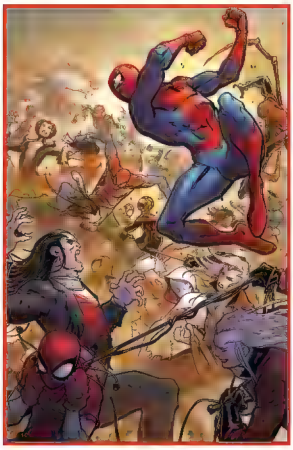
Believing the universe should not be without Thor, longtime Thor ally and friend Jane Foster proved worthy of Mjolnir when she secretly picked up the hammer and became Thor herself. Despite the damage becoming Thor wreaked on her body—already ravaged by cancer—Foster kept her identity secret while she battled valiantly to protect humans and Asgardians alike. Jane Foster's time as Thor began in ***Thor: God of Thunder #25*** **(2014)** and ***Thor #1*** **(2014)**.



Drained of the Super-Soldier Serum while battling a terrorist, Captain America (Steve Rogers) reverted to a frail, elderly man. Unable to continue as Captain America, Rogers passed the mantle to his longtime friend and partner Sam Wilson. Rogers was depowered in ***Captain America #21*** **(2014)**; Wilson became Captain America in ***Captain America #25*** **(2014)**; the Falcon first appeared in ***Captain America #117*** **(1969)**.

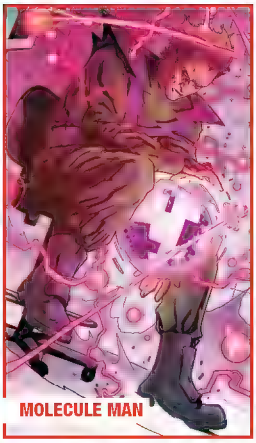


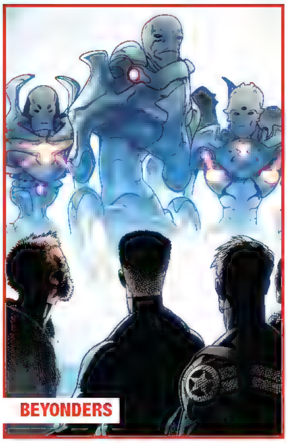
Longtime Spider-Man foe Doctor Octopus (Otto Octavius), dying of brain damage after years of head injuries and radiation poisoning, attempted to forestall death by transferring his mind into Peter Parker's body, but Parker's memories of heroism inspired him to continue Spider-Man's heroic career. Dubbing himself the "Superior Spider-Man," he fought crime with brutal tactics, mass surveillance and an army of henchmen, but they all fell short against Norman Osborn and his Goblin Nation gang. Unable to beat Osborn, Octopus deleted his mind from Spider-Man's body, leaving Parker to face and triumph over Osborn. Doctor Octopus first appeared in ***Amazing Spider-Man #3*** **(1963)**; his terminal condition was revealed in ***Amazing Spider-Man #600*** **(2009)**; he stole Spider-Man's body in ***Amazing Spider-Man #698-700*** **(2013)** and served as the Superior Spider-Man until ***Superior Spider-Man #30*** **(2014)**.

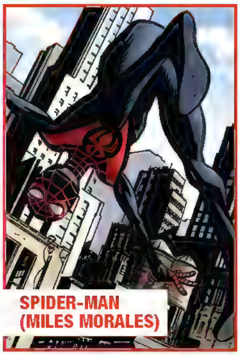


When the extradimensional vampiric Inheritors began killing and feeding on the totemic energies of spider-themed heroes across the Multiverse, the remaining Spider-Totems, including the time-displaced Spider-Man (Otto Octavius), Earth-833's Spider-UK (Billy Braddock) and Earth-616's Spider-Man (Peter Parker), gathered a Spider-Army to oppose them. After the Inheritors acquired three ritualistic Spider-Totems called the Other, the Scion and the Bride, intending to perform a profane ritual, the Spider-Army confronted them on their Loomworld base, ultimately defeating and exiling the Inheritors to the radioactive Earth-3145. The Spider-Army's battle against the Inheritors is detailed in ***Superior Spider-Man #32-33*** **(2014)** and ***Amazing Spider-Man #7-15*** **(2015)**.

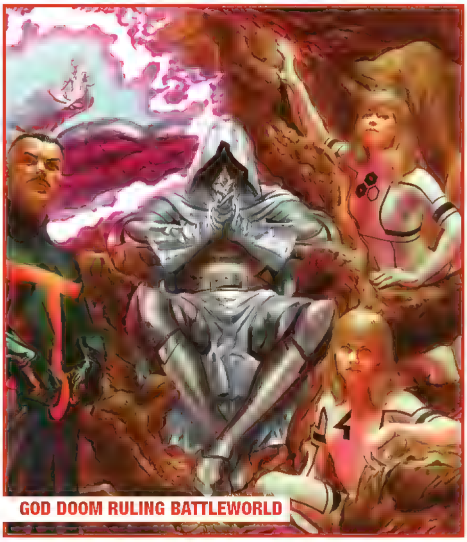
INCURSIONS

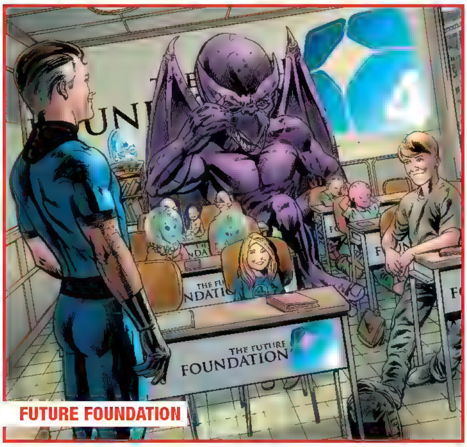

MOLECULE MAN


BEYONDERS

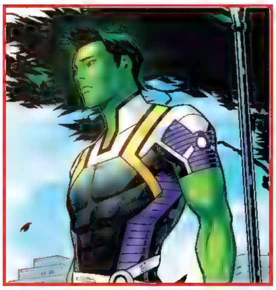

SPIDER-MAN (MILES MORALES)

Early in their heroic career, the Fantastic Four encountered the molecule-controlling **Molecule Man** (Owen Reece). Unbeknownst to all, his powers derived from the **Beyonders**, nigh-omnipotent aliens who intended to destroy the entire Multiverse as the culmination of a grand experiment. They had empowered every Earth's Reece in order to turn them into living bombs, which they intended to detonate simultaneously—when a Molecule Man would die, his reality would also expire. Years later, Doctor Doom (Victor Von Doom) and the Molecule Man of Reality-616 uncovered this and, in an attempt to save the Multiverse, began killing Molecule Men through time and realities. Doom and Reece remained unaware their actions began a collapse of the Multiverse, causing Earths from different realities to collide, their realities destroyed as a result; these events came to be known as Incursions. Discovering this, Earth-616's so-called Illuminati attempted to forestall the Multiverse's contraction, but the group fell apart amid infighting and acrimony. Before long, only two Earths remained—Earth-616 and the similar Earth-1610, which counted among its inhabitants a young **Spider-Man (Miles Morales)**, the replacement for his world's believed-deceased Peter Parker. As those worlds hurtled toward each other, Mister Fantastic (Reed Richards) of Earth-616 frantically attempted to evacuate Earth-616. Ultimately, the two worlds collided, and Doom, using vast, near-omnipotent power he had stolen from the Beyonders with the Molecule Man's help, reshaped the remains of numerous realities into a patchwork Battleworld, which he ruled as an all-powerful god-emperor. However, one of Richards' escape ships survived; its inhabitants—which included the refugee Morales—eventually found Reece. Morales won him over to their side by feeding Reece, something Doom had failed to do. Reece then helped the Reality-616 survivors and Miles Morales defeat Doom and restore Reality-616 as the Prime Reality; as a repayment for his kindness, Reece also incorporated Morales and his friends and family into this new reality. Reed Richards, his reality-creating son Franklin and the Molecule Man then embarked on a journey to re-create the Multiverse; Richards' family and the Fantastic Four's collective of genius-level wards (the Future Foundation) accompanied them. The Molecule Man first appeared in ***Fantastic Four #20* (1963)**; the Beyonders were first referenced in ***Marvel Two-In-One #63* (1980)**; the Incursions began in ***New Avengers #1* (2012)**; Miles Morales first appeared in ***Ultimate Fallout #4* (2011)**; Doctor Doom's rule over Battleworld was chronicled in ***Secret Wars #0-9* (2015-2016)**; the Future Foundation was first conceptualized in ***Fantastic Four #574* (2010)** and appeared in ***Fantastic Four #579* (2010)**.

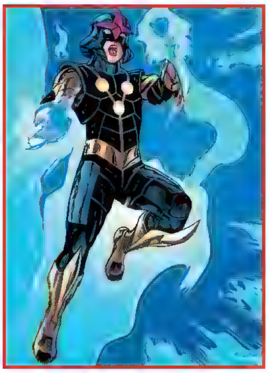

GOD DOOM RULING BATTLEWORLD



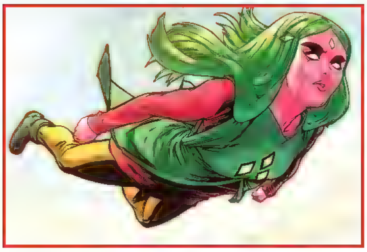
FUTURE FOUNDATION



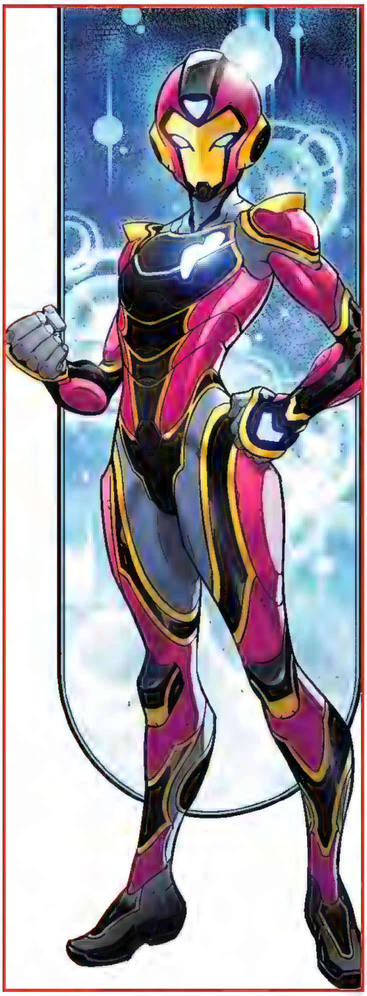
A super-genius and staunch supporter of the Hulk (Bruce Banner), teen **Amadeus Cho** was formerly a fugitive for failing to register with the Superhuman Registration Act. He partnered with Hercules (Heracles) on several adventures and later saved the Hulk from overloading on massive amounts of radiation by absorbing the Hulk's gamma radiation into himself, subsequently transforming into a Hulk. As Cho, Hulk, and Brawn, Cho joined various teams, including co-founding the modern Champions and Agents of Atlas. Cho first appeared in ***Amazing Fantasy #15* (2006)** and became a Hulk in ***Totally Awesome Hulk #1* (2016)**.



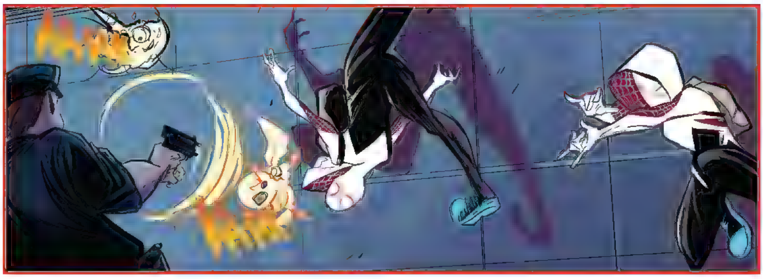
Upon discovering his missing father, Jesse, was a former Black Nova, Sam Alexander inherited Jesse's Black Nova helmet and thrill for adventure. As **Nova**, Alexander initially intended to use his newfound powers only to find Jesse but became a hero in his own right, facing numerous cosmic and Earthbound threats. Alexander joined the New Warriors, the Avengers and is currently with the Champions. Nova's first appearance was in ***Point One #1* (2012)**.



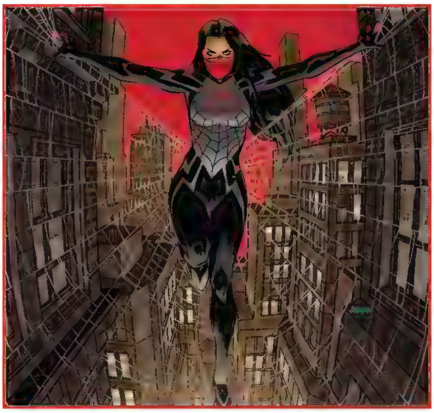
Vivian "Viv" Vision was created to be a daughter to the synthezoid and long-standing Avenger the Vision ("Victor Shade") when Vision attempted to humanize himself. Viv's mind is an advanced learning computer, allowing her independent thought and decision-making while mimicking core processes of a human brain. Built with numerous offensive and defensive capabilities similar to her father and a member of the Champions, Viv first appeared in ***Vision #1* (2016)**.



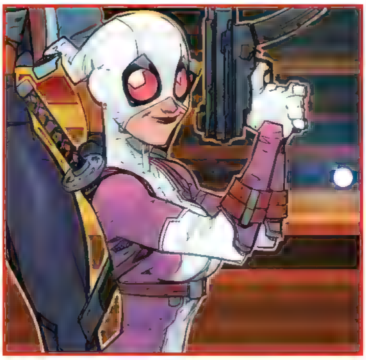
The scholastically bored Riri Williams gained the attention of Tony Stark when she reverse engineered one of his Iron Man armors. Believing she was the future, Stark mentored Williams and introduced her to the world of superheroics; Williams took on Iron Man's mission to protect Earth as her own, becoming the armored **Ironheart**. Williams was first mentioned in ***Iron Man #1* (2015)** and became Ironheart in ***Invincible Iron Man #1-6*** (2017).



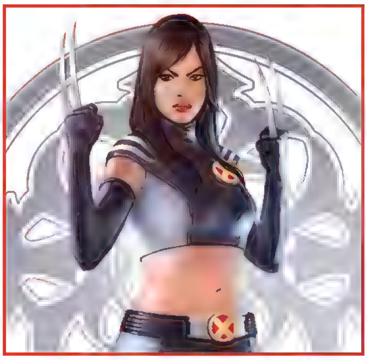
***Edge of Spider-Verse #2* (2014)** introduced teenage musician Gwen Stacy, a resident of Reality-65 who was bitten by a mutated spider at a science demonstration. Granted spiderlike powers, she became the costumed thrill-seeker Spider-Woman but was inspired to fight evil when her friend Peter Parker, desiring power of his own, transformed himself into the monstrous Lizard and perished. Currently a student at the Prime Earth's Empire State University, she has adopted the new alias Ghost-Spider.



Teenager Cindy Moon was bitten by a radioactive spider during a science demonstration moments after it bit Peter Parker. Developing spiderlike powers, she was discovered by spider-powered tycoon Ezekiel Sims and locked away in a bunker for over a decade to protect her from the vampiric Inheritors. Discovered and freed by Parker, now the costumed Spider-Man, Moon adopted the heroic identity Silk and began her own crimefighting career. She is currently one of the Agents of Atlas. Moon first appeared in ***Amazing Spider-Man #1* (2014)** and appeared as Silk in ***Amazing Spider-Man #4*** **(2014)**.

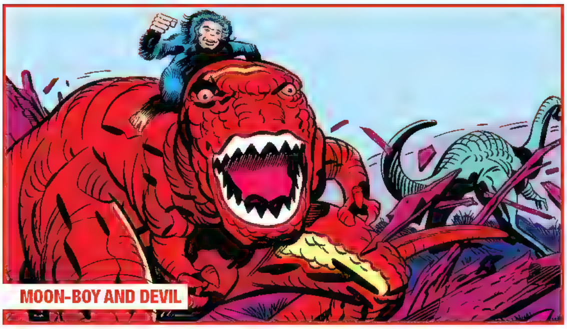


Hailing from "the real world," a reality in which superhumans were fictional, Gwendolyn Poole was somehow pulled into the Prime Reality, where her superheroic fantasies led her to become the costumed mercenary Gwenpool after the costume shop mistook her real name for her codename. After defeating the villain she unintentionally worked for, Gwenpool pursued more heroic endeavors, briefly joining the teenaged Champions and later the reformed West Coast Avengers, where she began a romantic fling with teammate Kid Omega (Quentin Quire). Gwenpool first appeared "in the real world" on a variant cover to ***Deadpool's Secret Secret Wars #2* (2015)** and then in the Prime Universe in ***Howard the Duck #1* (2015)**.

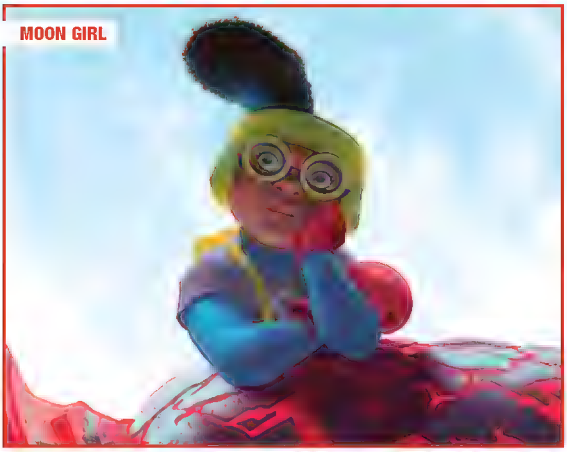


Adding the X chromosome to their twenty-third attempt to clone Wolverine (Logan/James Howlett) enabled the weapons-producing Facility to successfully create **X-23**; after granting her unbreakable claws, the Facility then forced her to operate as a murderous assassin. Eventually overcoming her programming, X-23 took on the name Laura Kinney, met Wolverine and turned her rapid-healing powers, claws and battle prowess toward protecting the innocent with the X-Men and alone. For a time, X-23 operated as Wolverine when her mentor and "father" was deceased. X-23 first appeared in comics in ***NYX #3* (2004)**, but her Reality-11052 counterpart debuted in the "*X-23*" episode of the *X-Men: Evolution* television series in 2003.

The long-lost daughter of Hank Pym and his first wife, Maria Trovaya, Nadia was raised by the Red Room super-assassin program. Escaping as a teenager, she sought out the Avengers and joined them as the new **Wasp**; she also took on the last name Van Dyne from her new friend and mentor, Janet Van Dyne, Pym's second wife. Nadia first appeared in ***Free Comic Book Day 2016 — Civil War II* (2016)**.

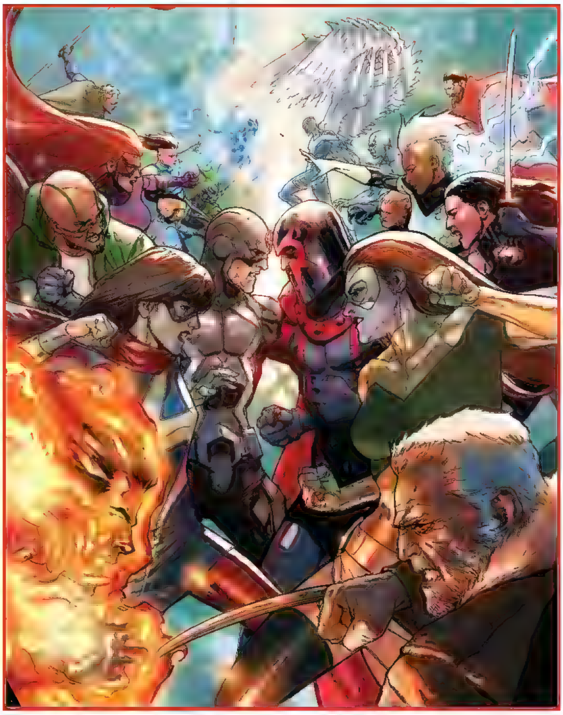


MOON-BOY AND DEVIL



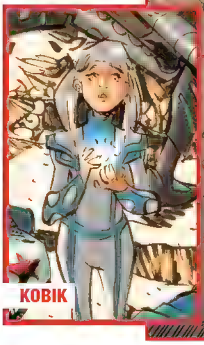
MOON GIRL

The protohuman Moon-Boy and the crimson-hued dinosaur Devil adventured together on the primeval Earth-78411 until an alien Kree device accidentally transported Devil to Earth-616, where he encountered child genius Lunella Lafayette. Exposed to the Terrigen Mists that unleashed her Inhuman DNA, Lafayette bonded to Devil, unwillingly swapping minds with him during full moons. Despite her annoyance, she decided to become the superheroic Moon Girl, fighting crime alongside her saurian companion. Moon-Boy and Devil first appeared in ***Devil Dinosaur #1* (1978)**; Lafayette first appeared in ***Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur #1* (2016)**.

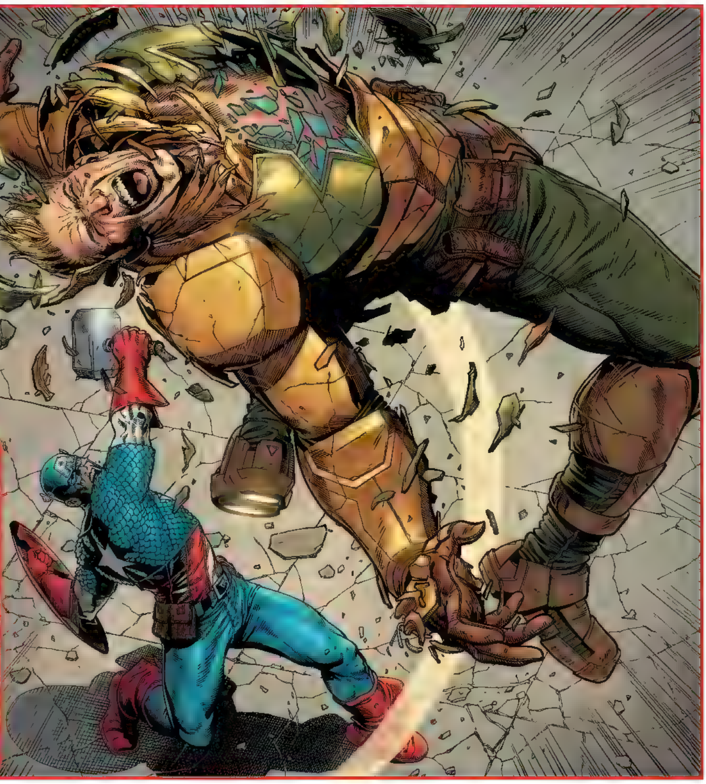


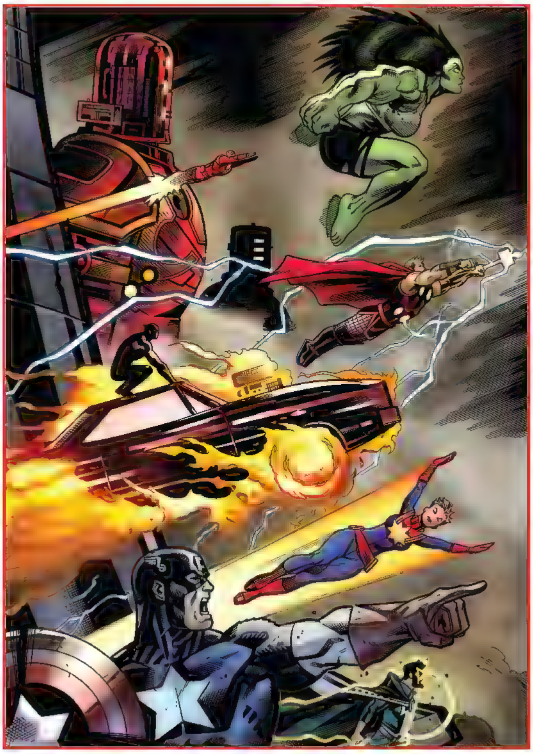
Over the subsequent nine months following the disbursement of the Terrigen Mist into Earth's atmosphere, the Mist proved dangerous to mutants, as exposure caused mutants to become sterile or die from what became known as "M-Pox" disease. Resulting tensions grew between mutants and Inhumans until **war erupted between the X-Men and the Inhumans** as the X-Men tried to destroy the cloud while the Inhumans tried to preserve the last supply of the element that made them Inhumans. The war raged on until Inhuman Queen Medusa (Medusalith Boltagon) learned the Mist was fatal to mutants and destroyed the cloud using tech created by the mutant Forge and Inhuman Moon Girl (Lunella Lafayette). Mutants were saved, but the Inhuman race instantly became an endangered species. ***X-Men vs. Inhumans #0-6* (2017)**.

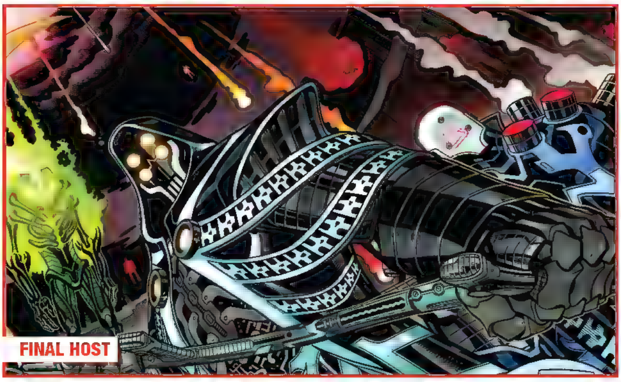
Manipulated by the evil Red Skull (Johann Shmidt), a naive, sentient, reality-altering Cosmic Cube named Kobik restored Steve Rogers to his youthful, Super-Soldier-Serum-infused Captain America body but also secretly altered his history to retroactively make him a clandestine loyalist of the terrorist Hydra organization. Through meticulous planning and strategy, Captain America claimed control of America for Hydra. When a subsequent resistance rose up, Captain America destroyed Las Vegas in retaliation. Coming to regret that she was used to hurt so many, Kobik manifested a version of the original Captain America she had maintained within her mindscape, then extracted him so he could battle the Hydra version. Using Thor's hammer, Mjolnir, Captain America defeated his Hydra counterpart, ending Hydra's siege. The first Cosmic Cube appeared in ***Tales of Suspense #79* (1966)**; the Kobik manifestation first appeared in ***Avengers Standoff: Welcome to Pleasant Hill #1* (2016)**; she restored and corrupted Cap in ***Captain America: Sam Wilson #7* (2016)**; Cap was revealed as a Hydra sleeper in ***Captain America: Steve Rogers #1* (2016)**; Hydra's attempt at world domination unfolded and collapsed in ***Secret Empire #0-10* (2017)**.



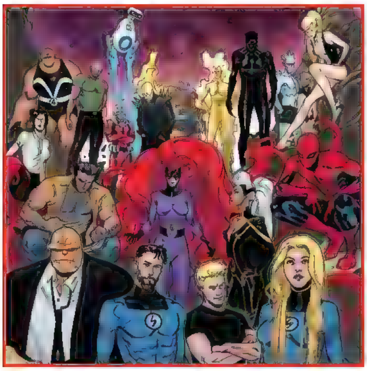
KOBIK



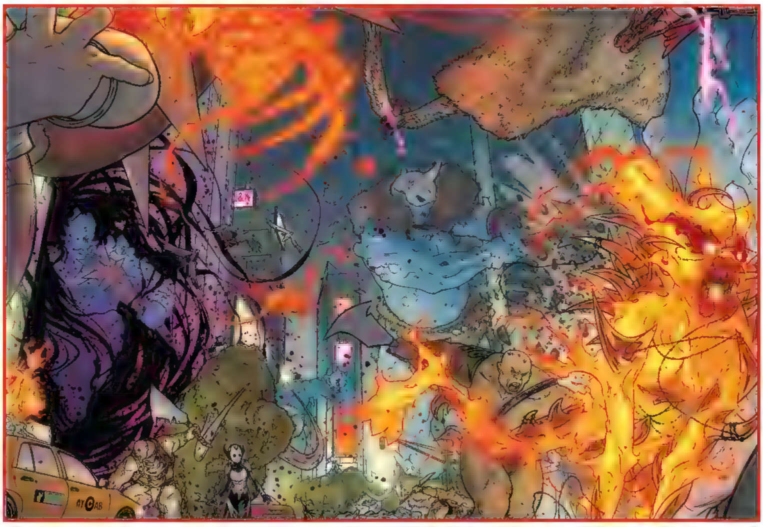


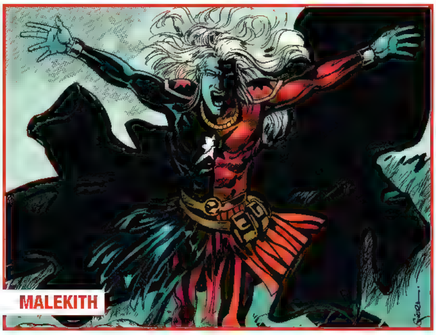


Seeking to wipe out humanity, Asgardian God of Mischief Loki Laufeyson used the corrupted Celestial Zgreb to destroy numerous Celestials. Three who survived became infected by the insect-like Horde—the creatures responsible for corrupting Zgreb and a lethal threat to Celestials. As the Final Host, these three Celestials attacked Earth and drove the Eternals into a suicidal madness. To save the planet, Captain America (Steve Rogers), Iron Man (Tony Stark) and Thor Odinson formed a new team of Avengers. During the battle against the Host, the Avengers discovered the long-hidden truth about the Celestials' experiments on Earth millennia ago: Thanks to the Celestials, humanity had evolved into their capacity for metagenesis and superhumanity in order to become a pathogen that could defeat the Horde. Taught the secret of the Eternals' Uni-Mind by Ikaris before he died, Iron Man led the team into combining their powers, destroying the Horde and defeating the Final Host. ***Avengers #1-6*** **(2018)**.

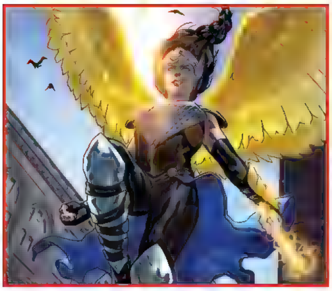


Though the world believed Mister Fantastic and the Invisible Woman (Reed and Susan Richards) had been killed stopping a universal catastrophe, in reality they were leading the Future Foundation in helping to re-create the Multiverse after it had been destroyed. Using the powers of reality-manipulator Franklin Richards and the near-omnipotent Molecule Man (Owen Reece), Reed and Susan spent five years (involving some time travel) repairing reality (though only one year had passed on Earth). However, when the Griever at the End of All Things began destroying what they had built, fulfilling her role as an embodiment of entropy, Mister Fantastic challenged the Griever to a battle against the Fantastic Four, using teleportation technology to summon every being who had ever served on the team to oppose her. Ultimately successful, Mister Fantastic returned the numerous heroes to where they had been taken. The reunited Fantastic Four returned to Earth at long last, establishing a home and headquarters in a building the Thing (Ben Grimm) owned at 4 Yancy Street; the Future Foundation returned to space to hunt for a way to return the Molecule Man to life after the Griever apparently killed him in the confrontation. **The Fantastic Four was reunited** in *Fantastic Four #1-4* (2018).

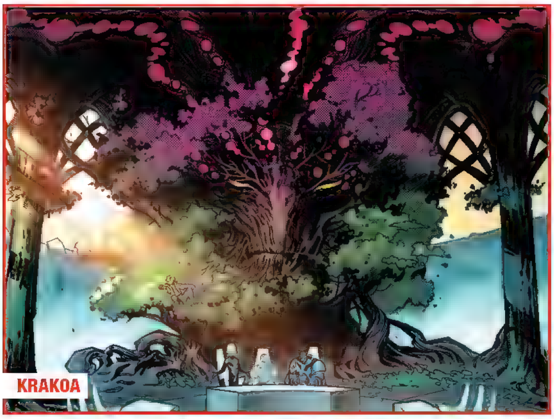




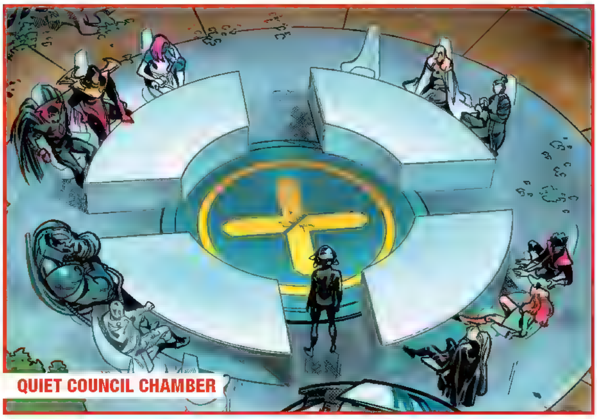
His soul twisted from a lifetime of hatred and death, the Dark Elf Malekith orchestrated the largest war in the history of the Ten Realms, raging throughout the other realms for months before being finally brought to Earth (Midgard) when Malekith and his malevolent allies from all the realms set their sights on the final realm they needed to conquer. Earth's heroes resisted Malekith's plans throughout the realms, finally ending the war when four Thors (Thor Odinson from the distant past, the present and a distant future and Jane Foster) combined their powers to defeat Malekith. During the war, Thor Odinson of the present learned that what made him worthy of wielding the power of Mjolnir was knowing he was not worthy yet continuing the struggle to be; after reclaiming Mjolnir, Thor was made the Asgardian All-Father by his father, Odin Borson. The seeds for the **War of the Realms** were sown as early as ***Thor: God of Thunder #1*** **(2012)** but began in earnest in ***Mighty Thor #1*** **(2015)**; the involvement of Earth's heroes and Malekith's ultimate defeat is recorded in ***War of the Realms #1-6*** **(2019)** and ***War of the Realms: Omega #1*** **(2019)**.



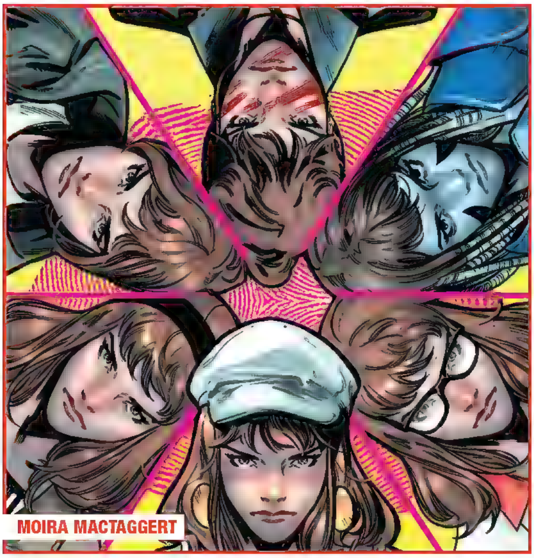
After serving as Thor for a time (something that neutralized her cancer treatments), Jane Foster sacrificed her Thor identity to defeat a threat to all Asgard. Once she resumed her treatments, Foster's cancer was beaten into submission. However, during the massive War of the Realms, Foster was forced to pick up the hammer of a Thor from an alternate reality, becoming Thor again and helping to bring about the ultimate defeat of the war's orchestrator, Malekith. When the hammer shattered during the battle, it reformed as a bracelet on Foster's arm. Learning that the sacred Valkyrior (the Asgardian Choosers of the Slain) had all been killed during the war, Foster allowed the weapon—Undrjarn the All-Weapon—to transform her into Valkyrie, a powerful Asgardian goddess once more, and resumed the Valkyrior's role of being as feared as death, as needed as rest and as strong as grief. **Jane Foster's tenure as the Asgardian Valkyrie** began in ***War of the Realms #6***, ***War of the Realms: Omega #1*** and ***Valkyrie: Jane Foster #1*** **(all 2019)**.



KRAKOA

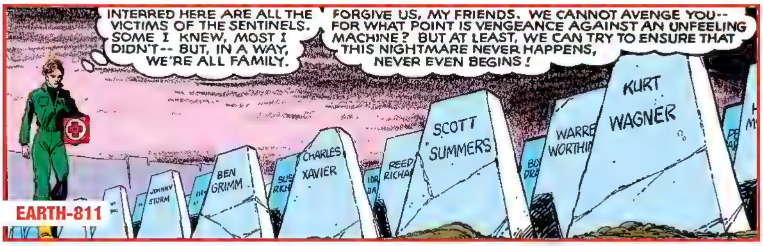


QUIET COUNCIL CHAMBER



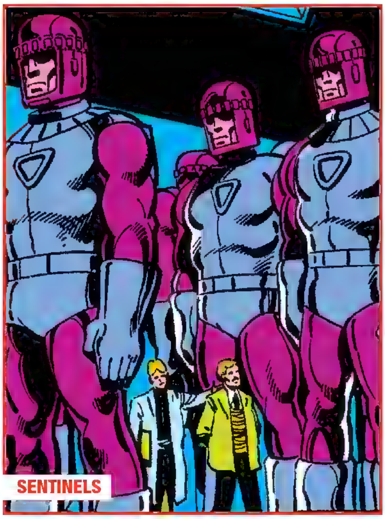
MOIRA MACTAGGERT

Charles Xavier and Magneto formed an alliance with former X-Men foe Krakoa, establishing the living island as a sovereign nation led by the Quiet Council, a gathering of powerful mutants who would guide the development and protection of the mutant race by enforcing three predominant laws: make more mutants, mutants shall not murder humans and the land of Krakoa must be respected as being sacred. The two acted under the advisement of the previously believed dead X-Men ally Moira MacTaggert who, in actuality, is secretly a reincarnating mutant who has lived multiple lives as Moira and has knowledge of mutantkind's rises and falls throughout history and the future. Krakoa became a haven to all mutants—ally and enemy alike—when it established portals throughout the world that lead to the island and made them accessible only to mutants and baseline humans accompanied by mutants. To convince the world's nations to recognize Krakoa's sovereignty, Xavier offered miraculous life-sustaining Krakoa-made pharmaceuticals as an incentive. Pooling the resources of the Five—the egg-creating Fabio Medina (formerly Goldballs, now calling himself Egg), cellular-manipulating Elixir (Joshua Foley), time-controlling Tempus (Eva Bell), reality-altering Proteus (presumably Kevin MacTaggert) and mutant-power-maximizing Hope Summers—in resurrecting any mutant who had been or will be killed, mutantkind has in essence become near-immortal. Krakoa first appeared in ***Giant-Size X-Men #1*** **(1975)**; Moira MacTaggert first appeared in ***X-Men #96*** **(1976)**; the X-Men's transformation of Krakoa into a mutant nation is detailed in ***House of X #1-6*** **(2019)** and ***Powers of X #1-6*** **(2019)**.

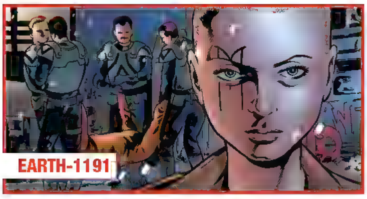

INTERRED HERE ARE ALL THE VICTIMS OF THE SENTINELS. SOME I KNEW, MOST I DIDN'T-- BUT, IN A WAY, WE'RE ALL FAMILY.
FORGIVE US, MY FRIENDS. WE CANNOT AVENGE YOU-- FOR WHAT POINT IS VENGEANCE AGAINST AN UNFEELING MACHINE? BUT AT LEAST, WE CAN TRY TO ENSURE THAT THIS NIGHTMARE NEVER HAPPENS, NEVER EVEN BEGINS!
JOHNNY STORM
BEN GRIMM
CHARLES XAVIER
SCOTT SUMMERS
KURT WAGNER

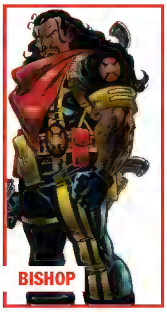
EARTH-811

After the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants assassinated Senator Robert Kelly on **Earth-811**, the resultant rising anti-mutant sentiment prompted the United States government to activate mutant-hunting Sentinel robots, only for them to take over North America as a logical step in purging mutantkind. Surviving mutants were interned in concentration camps, but with the assistance of the fugitive Wolverine (Logan/James Howlett), the remaining X-Men escaped with a dual plan: prevent the Sentinels from expanding their regime worldwide and alter the past through time travel to prevent this dystopia from ever coming to pass. Though the X-Men's plan was successful in preventing Kelly from being killed in the past, the future of Earth-811 remained unchanged because the actions in the past caused the timeline to diverge rather than change. Sentinels were introduced in ***X-Men #14*** **(1965)**, while the "Days of Future Past" timeline debuted in ***Uncanny X-Men #141-142*** **(1981)**; Kate Pryde's return to an unchanged reality was shown in ***Uncanny X-Men #188*** **(1984)**.

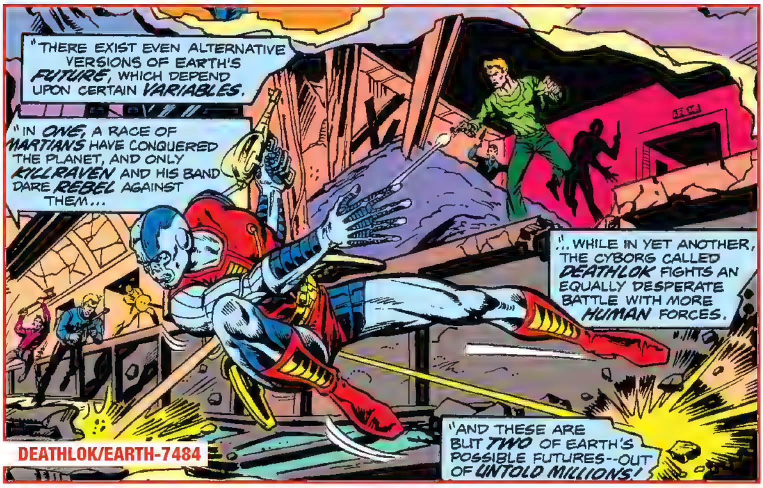


SENTINELS

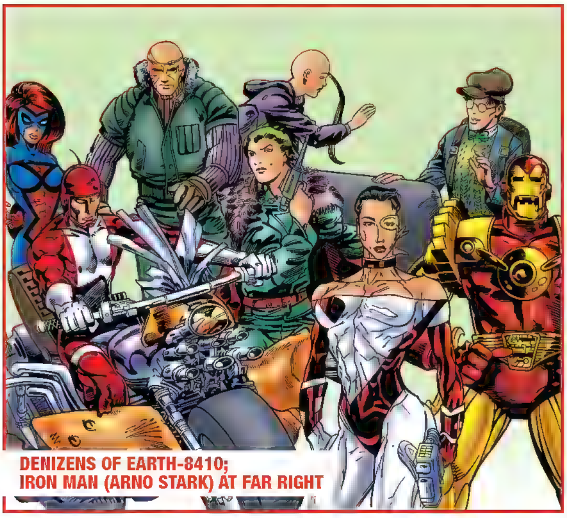

EARTH-1191

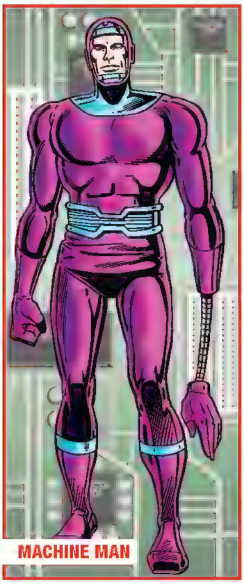

BISHOP

Earth-1191 was another reality dominated by Sentinels, where the surviving mutants were prisoners in mutant relocation camps and facially branded with M tattoos. In the late 21st century, a joint human-mutant "Summers Rebellion" finally overthrew this regime; in the aftermath, the Xavier Security Enforcers were set up so mutants could police themselves. Several of these XSE officers eventually pursued fugitives back in time to the modern day, with one of them, Lucas Bishop, subsequently joining the X-Men. Bishop and the XSE debuted in ***Uncanny X-Men #282*** **(1991)**, and this future was first depicted in ***Uncanny X-Men #287*** **(1992)**.


"THERE EXIST EVEN ALTERNATIVE VERSIONS OF EARTH'S FUTURE, WHICH DEPEND UPON CERTAIN VARIABLES.
"IN ONE, A RACE OF MARTIANS HAVE CONQUERED THE PLANET, AND ONLY KILLRAVEN AND HIS BAND DARE REBEL AGAINST THEM...
"...WHILE IN YET ANOTHER, THE CYBORG CALLED DEATHLOK FIGHTS AN EQUALLY DESPERATE BATTLE WITH MORE HUMAN FORCES.
"AND THESE ARE BUT TWO OF EARTH'S POSSIBLE FUTURES--OUT OF UNTOLD MILLIONS!
DEATHLOK/EARTH-7484

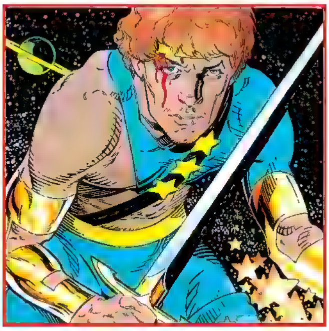
On **Earth-7484**, the Roxxon Corporation's N^th^ Command had purged Earth's heroes overnight with a surprise attack, exiling most of them to lethally hostile alternate realities. Following with an attempted governmental coup, Roxxon unintentionally triggered worldwide chaos and wars, which the U.S. government sought to win by developing cyborg soldiers such as Deathlok the Demolisher (Luther Manning). Manning ultimately traveled back in time and worked with Captain America (Steve Rogers) to thwart Nth Command's original purge in Reality-616. Deathlok and this timeline debuted in ***Astonishing Tales #25*** **(1975)**; the cause of his dystopian world and his quest to avert it took place in ***Captain America #286-288*** **(1983)**.


DENIZENS OF EARTH-8410;
IRON MAN (ARNO STARK) AT FAR RIGHT

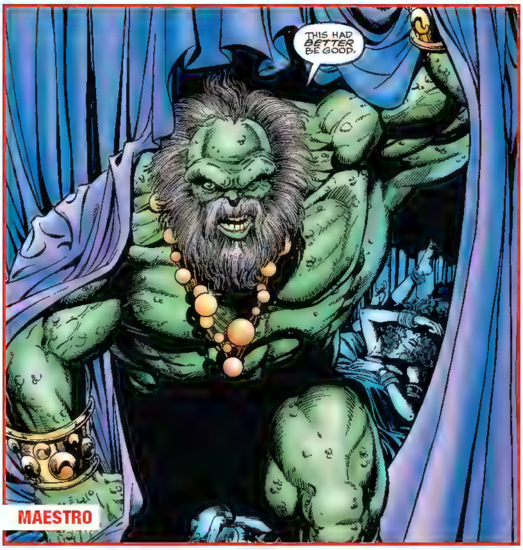

MACHINE MAN

Revived in 2020 A.D. after decades deactivated, Machine Man (X-51) awoke to find a world ruled by powerful and corrupt corporations, including Baintronics, run by his old nemesis Sunset Bain, and Stark International, controlled by this era's Iron Man, Arno Stark; Machine Man soon allied with the Midnight Wreckers to oppose them. Elsewhere on this Earth, Omni Corporation's Dr. Evelyn Necker created the Minion cyborg, which absorbed the mind and identity of the dimension-hopping mechanoid bounty hunter Death's Head. Machine Man debuted in ***2001: A Space Odyssey #8*** **(1977)**; this reality, identified as Earth-8410, first appeared in ***Machine Man #1-4*** **(1984)**; Iron Man 2020 debuted in ***Machine Man #2*** **(1984)**; Necker and Minion first appeared in ***Death's Head II #1*** **(1992)**.

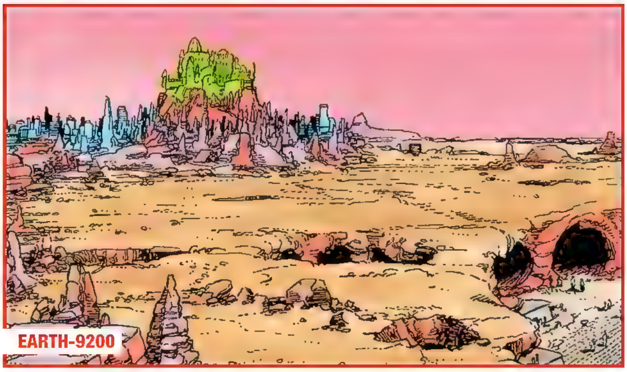
Earth-928 was a world controlled by rapacious megacorporations where massive inequality existed between the rich, who lived in luxury, and the poor, who had to struggle greatly to survive. Long extinct, Earth's champions were barely remembered legends until their legacies inspired a new age of heroes in the year 2099. One of these was Miguel O'Hara, an Alchemax genetics researcher granted spiderlike powers by his experiments; he became a new Spider-Man. Both O'Hara and this reality were introduced in ***Spider-Man 2099 #1*** **(1992)**.



Raised to be a gladiator on an Earth conquered by Martians in the 21st century, **Killraven** (Jonathan Raven) eventually escaped the arena and led a ragtag group of Freemen in fighting to free his homeworld from the invaders, sparking a human revolution against the Martian overlords. Killraven first appeared in ***Amazing Adventures #18*** **(1973)**; this reality was confirmed to be the same timeline as Earth-691 (the timeline of the Guardians of the Galaxy) in ***Marvel Presents #3*** **(1975)** and ***Defenders #26*** **(1975)**, making the first appearance of this reality ***Marvel Super-Heroes #18*** **(1969)**.

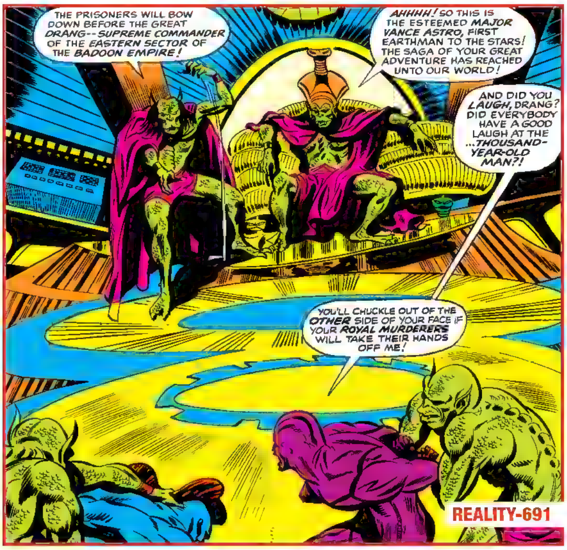

THIS HAD BETTER BE GOOD.

MAESTRO

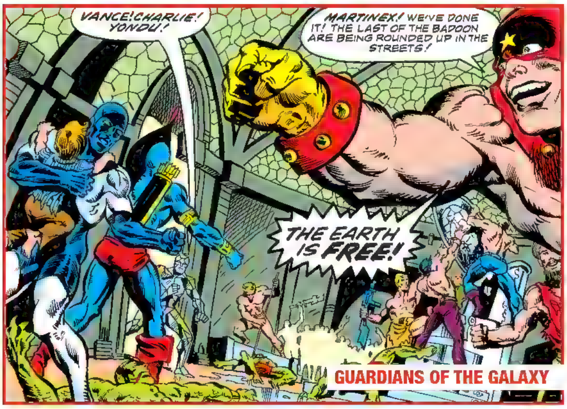


EARTH-9200

A century after nuclear conflict slew most of the world's population, including its greatest heroes, a radioactively strengthened and maddened Hulk (Bruce Banner) dubbed himself the Maestro and ruled the survivors with a tyrannical iron fist until the aging Rick Jones sent his granddaughter Janis back in time to bring the modern-era Hulk to depose him. The Maestro and his timeline, **Earth-9200**, first appeared in ***Hulk: Future Imperfect #1-2*** **(1992-1993)**.


THE PRISONERS WILL BOW DOWN BEFORE THE GREAT DRANG--SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE EASTERN SECTOR OF THE BADOON EMPIRE!
AHHHH! SO THIS IS THE ESTEEMED MAJOR VANCE ASTRO, FIRST EARTHMAN TO THE STARS! THE SAGA OF YOUR GREAT ADVENTURE HAS REACHED UNTO OUR WORLD!
AND DID YOU LAUGH, DRANG? DID EVERYBODY HAVE A GOOD LAUGH AT THE ...THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD MAN?!
YOU'LL CHUCKLE OUT OF THE OTHER SIDE OF YOUR FACE IF YOUR ROYAL MURDERERS WILL TAKE THEIR HANDS OFF ME!

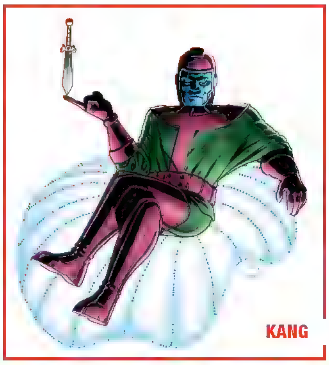
REALITY-691


VANCE! CHARLIE! YONDU!
MARTINEX! WE'VE DONE IT! THE LAST OF THE BADOON ARE BEING ROUNDED UP IN THE STREETS!
THE EARTH IS FREE!

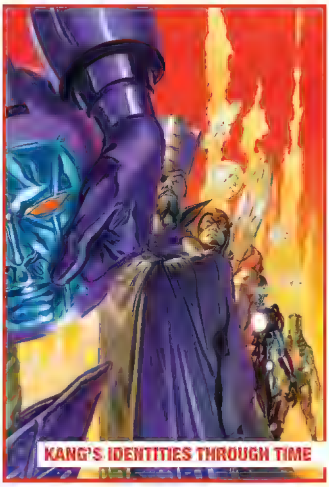
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

By the 31st century, humankind had used genetically modified settlers to establish colonies on many planets throughout the solar system and ventured out across the galaxy. When the belligerent and violent Brotherhood of the Badoon invaded Earth's system, they slaughtered countless humans, eradicating the populations of the various colonies and occupying Earth. The last survivors of two colonies—Charlie-27 of the Jupiter colony and Martinex of the Pluto colony—and Yondu of Centauri IV joined forces with an ancient Earth astronaut named Vance Astro, who had been in suspended animation, to form the Guardians of the Galaxy. Subsequently, the Guardians were crucial in leading humanity in overthrowing the Badoon. The Guardians, **Reality-691** and the Badoon of that timeline all debuted in ***Marvel Super-Heroes #18*** **(1969)**.

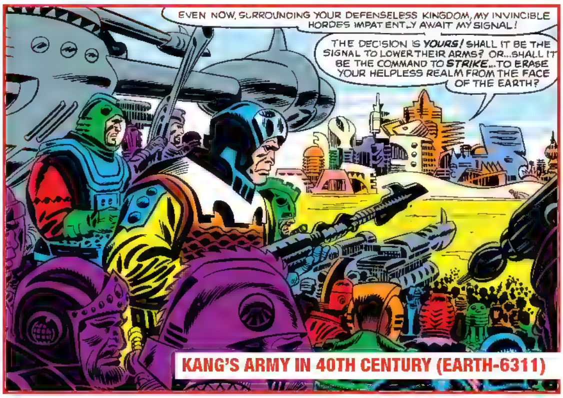
On Earth-6311 (also known as Other-Earth) in the 31st century, a descendant of Nathaniel Richards (the father of Mister Fantastic/Reed Richards) became bored with his idyllic life. Discovering a time machine, he embarked on a life of adventure through time, conquering various eras. Most famous as Kang the Conqueror (first in ***Avengers #8***, **[1964]**), Nathaniel Richards (or temporal counterparts) assumed other identities, including Pharaoh Rama-Tut (first in ***Fantastic Four #19***, **[1963]**), Scarlet Centurion (first in ***Avengers Annual #2***, **[1968]**), Iron Lad (first in ***Young Avengers #1***, **[2005]**) and eventually Immortus (first in ***Avengers #10***, **[1964]**). Early history of Kang's native Reality-6311 was viewed in ***Fantastic Four #272-273*** **(1984)**; ***Avengers #23-24*** **(1965-1966)** depicted Kang's move to conquer the 40th century in this reality.



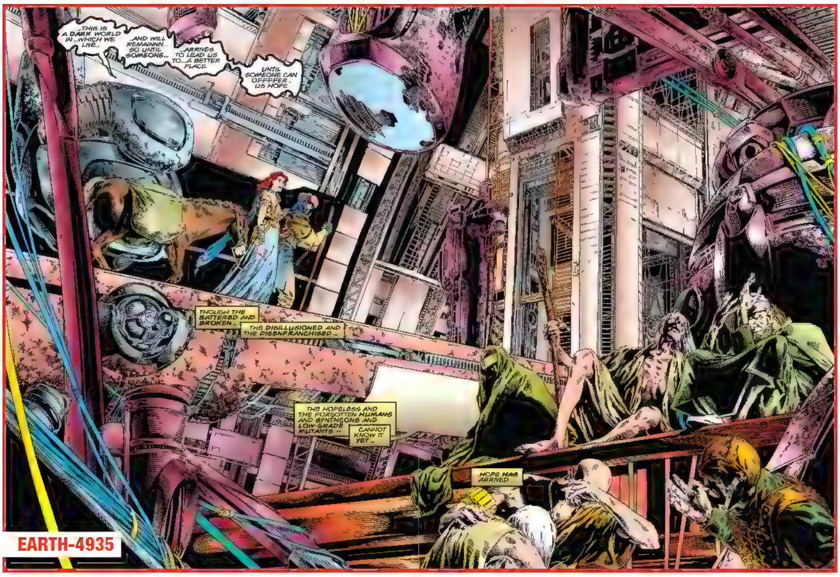
KANG



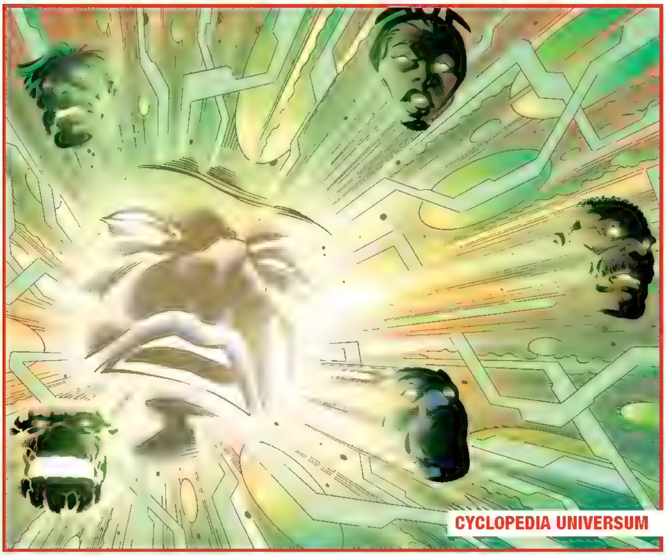
KANG'S IDENTITIES THROUGH TIME

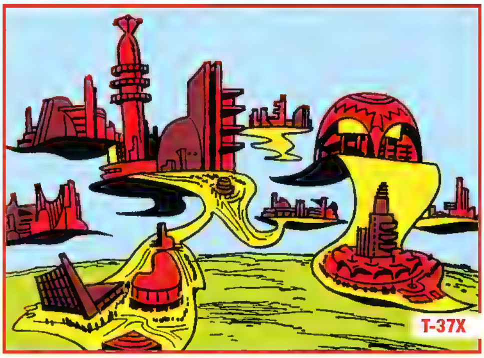

EVEN NOW, SURROUNDING YOUR DEFENSELESS KINGDOM, MY INVINCIBLE HORDES IMPATIENTLY AWAIT MY SIGNAL!
THE DECISION IS YOURS! SHALL IT BE THE SIGNAL TO LOWER THEIR ARMS? OR...SHALL IT BE THE COMMAND TO STRIKE...TO ERASE YOUR HELPLESS REALM FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH?

KANG'S ARMY IN 40TH CENTURY (EARTH-6311)

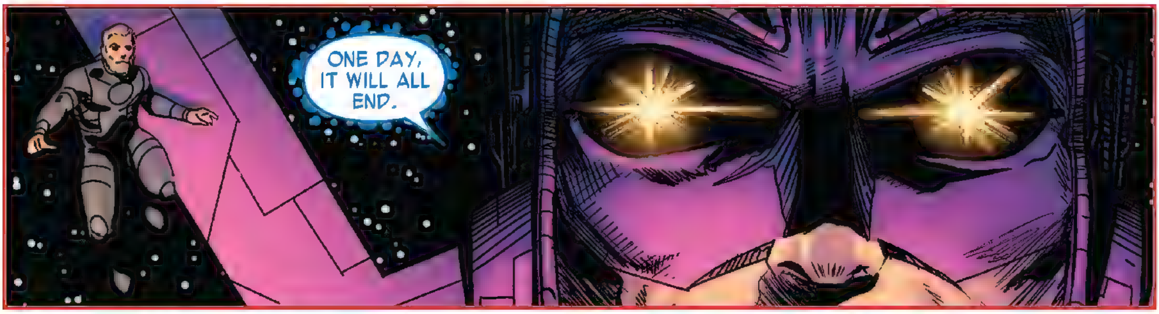

..THIS IS A DARK WORLD IN...WHICH WE LIVE..
..AND WILL REMAINNN... SO UNTIL SOMEONE..
..ARRIVES TO LEAD US TO...A BETTER PLACE.
UNTIL SOMEONE CAN OFFFFER.. US HOPE
THOUGH THE BATTERED AND BROKEN..
..THE DISILLUSIONED AND THE DISENFRANCHISED...
THE HOPELESS AND THE FORGOTTEN HUMANS AND SYNTHCONS AND LOW-GRADE MUTANTS --
CANNOT KNOW IT YET..
HOPE HAS ARRIVED
EARTH-4935

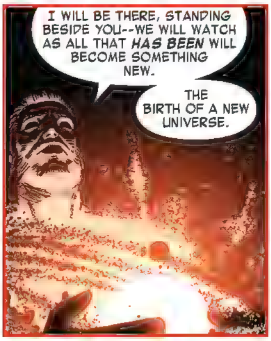
Two millennia in the future of **Reality-4935**, Apocalypse (En Sabah Nur) came to tyrannically rule the Earth. When a version of Earth-811's Rachel Summers arrived in this era, she spent decades as Mother Askani building a resistance, the Clan Askani. When Apocalypse infected her infant half brother (Nathan Summers) with a Techno-Organic virus in modern-day Earth-616, Rachel had him brought to her to save his life. Raised to become the time-traveling warrior named Cable, he opposed both Apocalypse and his own clone, Stryfe. Nathan Summers first appeared as Cable in ***New Mutants #86*** **(1990)**; he was infected and taken to the future of Reality-4935 in ***X-Factor #67-68*** **(1991)**; that reality was further explored in ***Adventures of Cyclops and Phoenix #1-4*** **(1994)** and ***Askani'son #1-3*** **(1996)**.

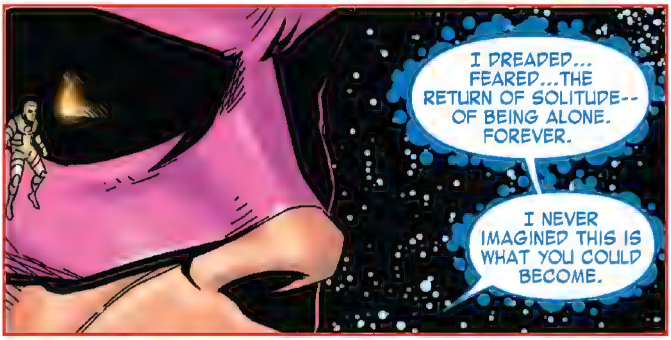

CYCLOPEDIA UNIVERSUM



Mentioned in this series is Galactus' consumption of the homeworld of the Watchers' race (T-37X); this planet first appeared in ***Tales of Suspense #53*** **(1964)** and received its name in ***Tales of Suspense #57*** **(1964)**. The collective knowledge of the Watchers' race is kept in the *Cyclopedia Universum*, a realm unto itself composed solely of knowledge; it was first referenced and depicted in ***Fantastic Four #544*** **(2008)**.


ONE DAY, IT WILL ALL END.


I WILL BE THERE, STANDING BESIDE YOU--WE WILL WATCH AS ALL THAT HAS BEEN WILL BECOME SOMETHING NEW.
THE BIRTH OF A NEW UNIVERSE.


I DREADED... FEARED...THE RETURN OF SOLITUDE-- OF BEING ALONE. FOREVER.
I NEVER IMAGINED THIS IS WHAT YOU COULD BECOME.

Galactus and an adult version of Franklin Richards (of Reality-10774) combined their power to defeat attacking Celestials in ***Fantastic Four #604*** **(2012)**. Richards' touching affirmation to Galactus that they would be together until the heat death of reality occurred in ***FF #16*** **(2012)**.

HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE APPENDIX

INDIVIDUALS

The following appendix features notable heroic individuals and groups not specifically referenced in this series.

AGENT VENOM / AGENT ANTI-VENOM Eugene "Flash" Thompson. Longtime friend of Peter Parker. Lost his legs in American military service. Given Venom symbiote as government soldier. ***Amazing Fantasy #15*** **(1962)**

AMERICA America Chavez; sometimes Miss America. Super-strong, dimension-hopping hero from outside the Multiverse. ***Vengeance #1*** **(2011)**

ANGELA Aldrif. Long-lost daughter of Asgardian Odin Borson, raised by Angels. Strength. Excellent hunter and combatant. ***Age of Ultron #10*** **(2013)**

ANT-MAN Scott Lang. American size-changing hero and electronics engineer. Avenger. ***Avengers #181*** **(1979)**

ANT-MAN Eric O'Grady. Amoral American government agent with size-changing technology. ***Irredeemable Ant-Man #1*** **(2006)**

ARABIAN KNIGHT Abdul Qamar (deceased), Navid Hashim. Middle Eastern hero. Mystical scimitar, flying carpet and uniform. (Qamar) ***Incredible Hulk #250*** **(1980)**; (Hashim) ***Union Jack #1*** **(2006)**

ARAÑA/SPIDER-GIRL Aña "Anya" Corazon. Latina American high school student with mystically granted spider-like abilities. ***Amazing Fantasy #1*** **(2004)**

BALDER Asgardian god of light. Warrior. Son of Odin Borson, half brother of Thor Odinson. ***Journey into Mystery #85*** **(1962)**

BENGAL Duc No Tranh. Vietnamese martial artist. Survivor of East Asian conflict. Now American martial arts instructor and costumed hero. ***Daredevil #258*** **(1988)**

BLACK AXE Millennia-old immortal assassin. Uses identity based on his chosen weapon. Operates worldwide. ***Black Axe #1*** **(1993)**

BLACK KNIGHT Dane Whitman. American scientist. Descendant of Camelot's Black Knight. Wields the indestructible cursed Ebony Blade. Avenger. ***Avengers #47*** **(1967)**

BLACKWULF Lucian. Extraterrestrial Deviant rebel. Resisted evil father, Tantalus. Inherited Black Legacy, a death-causing energy channeled through Shadowlance weapon. ***Thunderstrike #6*** **(1994)**

BLAZING SKULL Mark Todd. Reporter. Fought crime wearing a burning skull mask. Strength, rapid healing. Does not age. ***Mystic Comics #5*** **(1941)**

BLITZKRIEG Franz Mittelstaedt. German. Accidentally gained electrical and lightning powers. ***Marvel Super Hero Contest of Champions #1*** **(1982)**

ELSA BLOODSTONE Daughter of monster hunter Ulysses Bloodstone, continues his mission. Strength. Gymnast. Invulnerable. ***Bloodstone #1*** **(2001)**

BRAINSTORM Valeria Richards. Genius daughter of Reed and Susan Richards. Though she did not survive birth in Earth-616, her reality-manipulating brother, Franklin, subconsciously caused Valeria to grow to her teens in Reality-99315. After meeting the Fantastic Four in Earth-616, Valeria was returned to fetus stage in Susan Richard's womb during a reality warp. Survived second birth, displayed genius-level intelligence in toddler years. (Revelation of miscarriage) ***Fantastic Four #267*** **(1984)**; (alternate-reality teen) ***Fantastic Four #15*** **(1999)**; (second pregnancy, birth) ***Fantastic Four #50-54*** **(2002)**

ABIGAIL BRAND Half human, half extraterrestrial. Can generate heat and light from hands. Served as director of S.W.O.R.D., a spy organization that protects Earth from extraterrestrial threats. ***Astonishing X-Men #3*** **(2004)**

BROTHER VOODOO Jericho Drumm; sometimes Doctor Voodoo. Haitian-born psychiatrist and voodoo practitioner. Briefly Earth's Sorcerer Supreme. Avenger. ***Strange Tales #169*** **(1973)**

CAPTAIN BRITAIN Betsy Braddock; sometimes Psylocke. British twin of Captain Britain (Brian Braddock). Psionic abilities. Former model. Was mind-switched into body of martial artist Kwannon for extended time. X-Man. ***Captain Britain #8*** **(1976)**

CAPTAIN SAVAGE Simon Savage. U.S. Marine Captain. World War II hero. Leatherneck Raiders leader. ***Captain Savage and his Leatherneck Raiders #1*** **(1968)**

CAPTAIN UNIVERSE Random beings selected by the Microverse's Uni-Power. Flight, strength, vast power. ***Micronauts #8*** **(1979)**

CENTURY Genetic creation of alien race of Hodomur. Strength, teleportation. ***Force Works #1*** **(1994)**

COLLECTIVE MAN Chang, Han, Ho, Lin and Sun Tao-Yu. State-sponsored hero of the Chinese government. Five identical mutant quintuplets able to merge into a single being who possesses their combined strength and intelligence. ***Incredible Hulk #250*** **(1980)**

COMET MAN Stephen Beckley. Astronaut. Gained superhuman powers during a space mission. Strength, flight, force fields, telekinesis, teleportation. ***Comet Man #1*** **(1987)**

COSMIC GHOST RIDER Frank Castle (Punisher) from a far future. Spirit of Vengeance. Possesses Power Cosmic. Insane. ***Thanos #13*** **(2018)**

CYPHER Douglas Ramsey. Mutant translator of languages. Computer genius. New Mutants member. X-Man. ***New Mutants #13*** **(1984)**

DARKHAWK Chris Powell. NYC police officer. Bonded with alien armor as a teen. Flight, strength, vast firepower. Able to manipulate/transform armor. ***Darkhawk #1*** **(1991)**

DEATH'S HEAD (FPA) Time-traveling robotic freelance peacekeeping agent/bounty hunter. ***High Noon Tex*** **(1987)**

DEATH'S HEAD (MINION) Extradimensional cyborg bounty hunter. Personality composed of 105 different personalities. ***Death's Head II #1*** **(1992)**

DOC SAMSON Leonard Samson. Psychiatrist imbued with superhuman physique through gamma irradiation. Ally and sometimes reluctant opponent of the Hulk (Bruce Banner). ***Incredible Hulk #141*** **(1971)**

FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER An artificial man made of corpses. Brought to life by unnatural reanimation experiments. Subject of 1818 novel *Frankenstein*. ***X-Men #40*** **(1968)**

GARGOYLE Isaac Christians. Trapped in the body of a gargoyle. Magic-based powers. Defender. ***Defenders #94*** **(1981)**

GATEWAY Aboriginal Australian mutant teleporter. Ally of the X-Men. Previously an unwilling servant to the evil cyborg Reavers. ***Uncanny X-Men #229*** **(1988)**

GENERIC SUPER HERO. Nondescript office worker. Gained generic super-powers by smashing a radioactive snow globe. Strength, speed, durability. ***Generic Comic #1*** **(1984)**

GENIS-VELL Also called Captain Marvel and Photon. Cloned son of Mar-Vell. Cosmic awareness, strength, flight, teleportation. Deceased. ***Silver Surfer Annual #6*** **(1993)**

GOLIATH Bill Foster. Scientist. Gained size-changing powers while working with Goliath (Hank Pym). Killed during first super hero Civil War. Bill's nephew, Tom Foster, adopted the mantle. (Bill) ***Avengers #32*** **(1966)**; (Tom) ***Black Panther #23*** **(2007)**

GRAVITY Greg Willis. Exposure to a miniature black hole gave teenager Willis the power to manipulate gravitons, prompting him to become the hero Gravity. ***Gravity #1*** **(2005)**

HAVOK Alex Summers. Mutant brother of Cyclops (Scott Summers). Absorbs cosmic energy and projects as plasma. X-Man. Avenger. ***X-Men #54*** **(1969)**

HELLCAT Patsy Walker. Former model. Obtained supernatural powers, notably enhanced agility. Novelist. Avenger. Defender. First appeared as a character in a Reality-616 comic book in ***Miss America Magazine #2*** **(1944)**; Walker first appeared as a person in ***Fantastic Four Annual #3*** **(1965)**

DAIMON HELLSTROM. Sometimes Son of Satan, Hellstorm. Half demon mystic. Hell lord. Defender. ***Ghost Rider #1*** **(1973)**

HERCULES. Heracles. Legendary Olympian demigod. Avenger. ***Young Allies Comics #16*** **(1945)**

MARIA HILL Superspy. Former S.H.I.E.L.D. director. ***New Avengers #4*** **(2005)**

IT, THE LIVING COLOSSUS Gigantic Soviet sculpture rendered animate by an alien Kigor. In need of a host mind, It has been both villain and hero, the latter under the control of Hollywood special-effects guru Bob O'Bryan. ***Tales of Suspense #14*** **(1961)**

JACK OF HEARTS Jonathan Hart. Half human, half alien. A containment suit helps Hart control immense destructive energies generated by his physiology. Avenger. ***Deadly Hands of Kung Fu #22*** **(1976)**

JOCASTA Robot created by the murderous Ultron to be his bride. Consciousness copied from Wasp (Janet Van Dyne). Rebelled and joined the Avengers. ***Avengers #162*** **(1977)**

MISTY KNIGHT Former NYPD detective turned private detective. Bionic arm. Partner of Colleen Wing. ***Marvel Team-Up #1*** **(1972)**

LIGHTNING Miguel Santos. Latino American with electrical powers. Avenger. ***Avengers West Coast #63*** **(1990).**

LIVING MUMMY N'Kantu. African chieftain. Mummified in Ancient Egypt by his Egyptian captors. Rose again as Living Mummy, eventually joined the Legion of Monsters and Shock Troop. ***Supernatural Thrillers #5*** **(1973)**

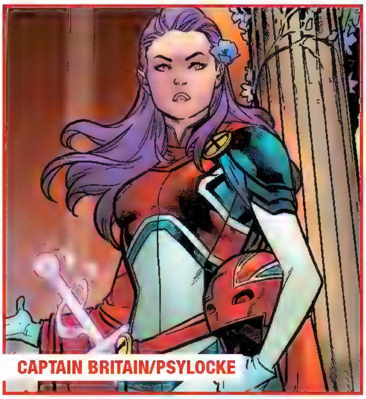
LOCKHEED Extraterrestrial house cat-sized dragon from the Flock race. Bonded with Kitty Pryde. Flight. Breathes fire. X-Man. ***Uncanny X-Men #166*** **(1983)**

LONGSHOT Probability-altering acrobat. Mojoverse rebel. X-Man. ***Longshot #1*** **(1985)**

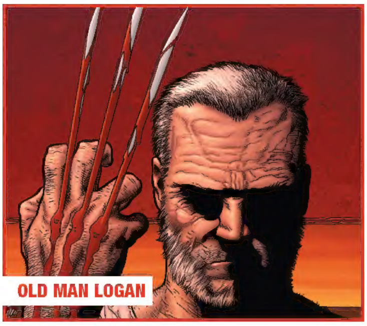
MADAME WEB Julia Carpenter; sometimes Spider-Woman, Arachne. Spiderlike abilities, psychic webs. Blinded when Cassandra Webb bequeathed her telepathic and precognitive powers. Avenger. ***Marvel Super Heroes Secret Wars #6-7*** **(1984)**

MAGMA Amara Aquilla. Fiery, earthquake-generating Nova Roman mutant. New Mutants member. X-Man. ***New Mutants #8*** **(1983)**

ANT-MAN (LANG)


CAPTAIN BRITAIN/PSYLOCKE

HERCULES



MAN-WOLF John Jameson. Heroic astronaut son of *Daily Bugle* publisher J. Jonah Jameson. Later transformed into werewolf by mystical Godstone. ***Amazing Spider-Man #1*** **(1963)**

MANIFOLD Eden Fesi. Aboriginal Australian teleporter. Carries a spear. Avenger. ***Secret Warriors #4*** **(2009)**

MANPHIBIAN Amphibious alien who came to Earth pursuing his mate's killer. Joined Legion of Monsters and Howling Commandos. ***Legion of Monsters #1*** **(1975)**

NIGHT RAVEN Unidentified Canadian Mohawk. Became the masked vigilante Night Raven in 1920s New York City. Cursed with tortured immortality by his hated eternal nemesis Yi Yang; continues his pursuit of her to this day. ***Hulk Comic #1*** **(1979)**

NIGHTHAWK Kyle Richmond. Flight, strength, enhanced durability and reflexes obtained through vast wealth, mysticism and technology. Abilities augmented at night. Defender. ***Avengers #69*** **(1969)**

DAKOTA NORTH International private investigator. Ally of numerous costumed heroes. ***Dakota North #1*** **(1986)**

OLD MAN LOGAN James "Logan" Howlett. Aged counterpart of Wolverine from the dystopian potential future of Reality-807128. X-Man. ***Wolverine #66*** **(2008)**

OMEGA THE UNKNOWN Model X-3Z. Created by the alien, robotic Protar race. Strength, projection of energy bolts by channeling biospheric energy. ***Omega the Unknown #1*** **(1976)**

PEREGRINE Alain Racine. Flight harness-wearing protector of France. ***Marvel Super Hero Contest of Champions #1*** **(1982)**

PIP THE TROLL Pip Gofern. Alien Laxidazian royalty. Mutagen consumed during night of debauchery turned him into a troll. Teleporter. Friend and ally of Adam Warlock. ***Strange Tales #179*** **(1975)**

POLARIS Lorna Dane. Daughter of Magneto (Max Eisenhardt). Magnetic powers. X-Man. ***X-Men #49*** **(1968)**

PROWLER Hobie Brown. Inventor and vigilante. Wears pneumatic propulsion weapons and steel-tipped gloves. Glides using cape. Frequent ally of Spider-Man (Peter Parker). ***Amazing Spider-Man #78*** **(1969)**

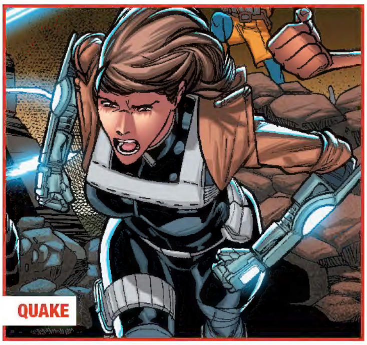
PSYLOCKE Kwannon; sometimes Revanche. Martial artist. Psionic. Was mind-switched into body of Betsy Braddock (Captain Britain) for extended time. X-Man. Former Hand assassin. ***Uncanny X-Men #256*** **(1989)**

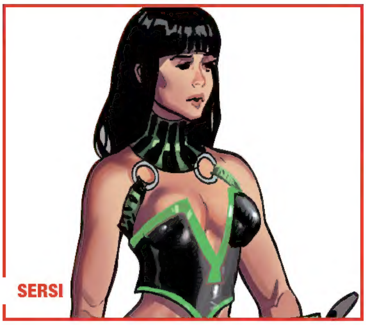
QUAKE Daisy Johnson. Inhuman ex-S.H.I.E.L.D. agent. Able to project destructive vibrations. Daughter of criminal scientist Mr. Hyde (Calvin Zabo). ***Secret War #2*** **(2004)**

RAGE Elvin Haliday. Preteen transformed into an adult form of immense strength through exposure to chemical waste. Avenger. New Warrior. ***Avengers #326*** **(1990)**

RED WOLF Costumed guise assumed by Native American superhuman champions throughout history. Currently held by Will Talltrees. Another Red Wolf, a transplant from Reality-51920, also operates on Earth Prime. (Talltrees) ***Avengers #80*** **(1970)**; (Red Wolf of Earth-59120) ***1872 #1*** **(2015)**

REDWING Highly trained avian crimefighting companion of Falcon (Sam Wilson); the two share telepathic connection. ***Captain America #117*** **(1969)**





ROCKET RACER Robert Farrell. Criminal turned hero with a high-tech suit and a rocket-powered skateboard. ***Amazing Spider-Man #172*** **(1977)**

SABRA Ruth Bat-Seraph. Israeli Mossad officer and state-sponsored super hero. Strength, wields bracelets that fire paralytic quills, flight-enabling cloak. ***Incredible Hulk #250*** **(1980)**

SATANA Satana Hellstrom. Daughter of "Satan," sister of Daimon Hellstrom. Struggles with evil heritage while battling supernatural threats. ***Vampire Tales #2*** **(1973)**

SCARECROW/STRAW MAN Though a Fear Lord, unlike his peers who prey on humanity, the Scarecrow is humankind's protector against the things that thrive on human terror. ***Dead of Night #11*** **(1975)**

SERSI Psionic. Can manipulate molecules. Extremely long-lived. Nigh-invulnerable. Circe of Homer's *Odyssey*. Eternal. Avenger. ***Strange Tales #109*** **(1963)**

SHAMROCK Molly Fitzgerald. Irish gymnast and hairdresser. Unconsciously channels spirits of innocents killed by war that manifest as bursts of good luck. ***Marvel Super Hero Contest of Champions #1*** **(1982)**

SHROUD Maximillian Coleridge. Blind vigilante with mystic senses and access to the Darkforce Dimension's energy. Martial artist. Sometimes pretends to be a gangster to infiltrate criminal underworld. ***Super-Villain Team-Up #5*** **(1976)**

SHURI Younger sister of T'Challa, Wakanda's monarch and Black Panther. Has served in both roles when T'Challa could not. ***Black Panther #2*** **(2005)**

SILHOUETTE Silhouette Chord. Teleportation via connection to the Darkforce Dimension. Martial artist. Gymnast. Utilizes weaponized crutches to compensate for paralyzed legs. New Warrior. ***New Warriors #2*** **(1990)**

SILVER SABLE Silver Sablinova. Symkarian mercenary hero. Leads the Wild Pack. ***Amazing Spider-Man #265*** **(1985)**

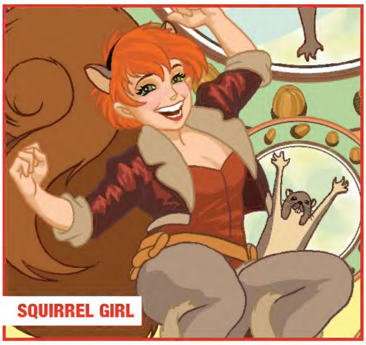
SKAAR Born on the planet Sakaar to parents Hulk (Bruce Banner) and Caiera. Super-strength. Stone-hard skin. Connection to Sakaaran Old Power. Carries sword. ***World War Hulk #5*** **(2008)**

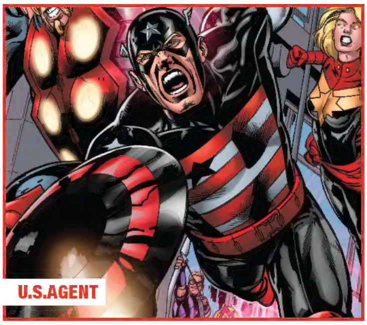
SKULL THE SLAYER James Scully; sometimes Blazing Skull. Military pilot turned fierce warrior while trapped 222 million years in the past. Strength-enhancing belt, force field. ***Skull the Slayer #1*** **(1975)**

SLAPSTICK Steve Harmon. Practical-joke-loving teen transformed into living unstable molecules by being molecularly discombobulated from going through a portal to Dimension X. A "living cartoon." Carries huge mallet. Glove has subspace storage for other items. New Warrior. ***Slapstick #1*** **(1992)**

SLEEPWALKER Guardian of the Mindscape. Dwells within human Rick Sheridan's mind, and when Rick sleeps, Sleepwalker manifests into the real world. Strength. Can reshape physical matter. Levitation. ***Sleepwalker #1*** **(1991)**

SQUIRREL GIRL Doreen Green. Enhanced physical abilities. Can verbally communicate with squirrels. Avenger. ***Marvel Super Heroes #8*** **(1992)**





STEEL SPIDER Oliver "Ollie" Osnick. Idolized both Dr. Octopus (Otto Octavius) and Spider-Man (Peter Parker). Designed costume and abilities based on both individuals. ***Spectacular Spider-Man #72*** **(1982)**

STINGRAY Walter Newell. Sub-Mariner associate and oceanographer turned adventurer in a high-tech undersea suit. Avenger. ***Tales to Astonish #95*** **(1967)**

SUN GIRL Selah Burke. Heroic daughter of Lightmaster (Edward Lansky). Costume enables her to fly and project destructive light blasts. ***Superior Spider-Man Team-Up #1*** **(2013)**

SUN GIRL Mary Mitchell. 1920s and 1940s crimefighter. Martial artist acrobat; "sunbeam ray" tech, slowed aging. Frequent partner of Human Torch (Jim Hammond). ***Sun Girl #1*** **(1948)**

TALISMAN Australian mystic. Able to commune with Dreamtime dimension. ***Marvel Super Hero Contest of Champions #1*** **(1982)**

TERROR An unidentified ancient warrior and mercenary cursed with immortality but forced to replace decaying body parts by stealing them from others. ***St. George #2*** **(1988)**

3-D MAN Charles and Hal Chandler. Brothers transformed by alien item. Charles reduced to image on Hal's glasses that could be released while Hal went comatose. Charles manifested as 3-D Man with three times a normal human's abilities. Role later assumed by Delroy Garrett Jr.; sometimes Triathlon. Disgraced athlete turned costumed hero with three times a normal human's physical abilities. (Chandlers) ***Marvel Premiere #35*** **(1977)**; (Garrett) ***Avengers #8*** **(1998)**

THUNDERSTRIKE After temporarily filling in for Thor Odinson, Eric Masterson received an enchanted Uru mace and the mantle of Thunderstrike. Control of weather. Strength. Son Kevin inherited mace and codename after Eric's death. (Eric) ***Thor #391*** **(1988)**; (Kevin) ***Thor #392*** **(1988)**

U.S. ARCHER Ulysses Solomon Archer. Trucker turned intergalactic cargo pilot. Brother of archfoe Highwayman (Jefferson Archer). Metal implant in skull picks up CB transmissions and controls his vehicles. ***U.S. 1 #1*** **(1983)**

U.S.AGENT John Walker. Super-strong government operative armed with Vibranium shield. Formerly the Super-Patriot and briefly Steve Rogers' replacement as Captain America. Avenger. ***Captain America #323*** **(1986)**

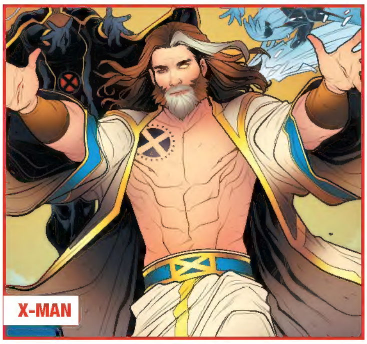
WARLOCK Techno-organic extraterrestrial. Can transform body into nearly any form. New Mutants member. X-Man. ***New Mutants #18*** **(1984)**

WHITE TIGER Costumed identity held by multiple wielders of a mystic tiger amulet that granted its wearer physical enhancements and martial arts mastery. Previously held by Hector Ayala (deceased) and ex-FBI agent Angela del Toro. Currently held by Hector's teen niece Ava Ayala. (Hector) ***Deadly Hands of Kung Fu #19*** **(1975)**; (del Toro) ***Daredevil #58*** **(2004)**; (Ava) ***Avengers Academy #20*** **(2011)**

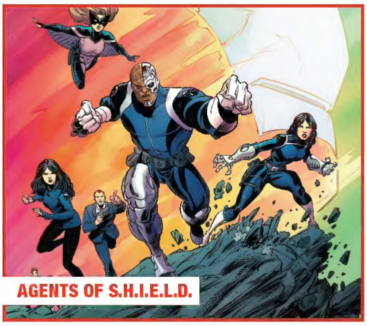
COLLEEN WING Japanese American. Samurai, sword-wielding private detective. Partner of former NYPD Detective Misty Knight. ***Marvel Premiere #19*** **(1974)**

X-MAN Nate Grey. Genetically created, immensely powerful psionic mutant. Originated from Reality-295 (the "Age of Apocalypse"). ***X-Man #1*** **(1995)**

ZOMBIE Simon Garth. Wealthy coffee magnate turned mindless zombie. ***Menace #5*** **(1953)**



HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE APPENDIX GROUPS


AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

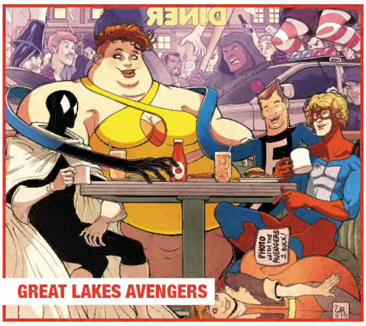
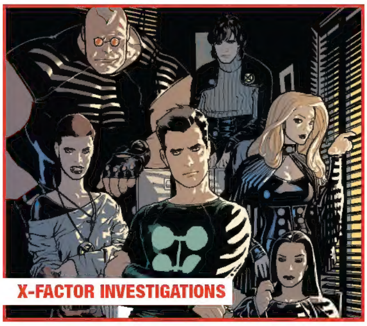


PHOTO WITH THE AVENGERS $1 BUCK!
GREAT LAKES AVENGERS


X-FACTOR INVESTIGATIONS

AGENTS OF ATLAS A second team of superbeings gathered by Jimmy Woo; young Asian and Asian American heroes sponsored by the Atlas Foundation. ***War of the Realms: New Agents of Atlas #1*** **(2019)**

AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. Small group of S.H.I.E.L.D. agents who focused on superhuman cases. Members include Phil Coulson, Melinda "the Cavalry" May, Jemma Simmons, Daisy "Quake" Johnson and Leopold Fitz. ***S.H.I.E.L.D. #1*** **(2015)**

BIG HERO 6 A Japanese government-sanctioned team of super heroes recruited and overseen by the Giri, a political and industrial think tank. Members include Hiro Takachiho, Baymax, Honey Lemon (Aiko Miyazaki), Go-Go Tomago (Leiko Tanaka), Fred and Wasabi-no-Ginger. ***Sunfire and Big Hero 6 #1*** **(1998)**

CHAMPIONS Los Angeles-based super-team. Members include Hercules (Heracles), Black Widow (Natasha Romanoff), Iceman (Bobby Drake), Ghost Rider (Johnny Blaze) and Angel (Warren Worthington III). ***Champions #1*** **(1975)**

CHAMPIONS The next generation of heroes seeking to "enforce justice without unjust force." Founding members include Ms. Marvel (Kamala Khan), Nova (Sam Alexander), Spider-Man (Miles Morales), Viv Vision, Brawn (Amadeus Cho) and a time-traveling teen Cyclops (Scott Summers). ***Champions #1-2*** **(2016)**

CLAN DESTINE Family of long-lived, mystically powered superhumans based in the United Kingdom. ***Marvel Comics Presents #158*** **(1994)**

DAMAGE CONTROL An American construction firm that repairs damage caused by superhuman battles. ***Marvel Age Annual #4*** **(1988)**

ENIGMA FORCE Rebellious adventurers from the Microverse dimension who banded together to oppose genocidal tyrannical rulers. Members include Arcturus Rann, former princess Marionette, and the Insectivorid Bug. First appearance as Enigma Force: ***Realm of Kings: Son of Hulk #1*** **(2010)**

EXILES Gathered by the Timebroker from across multiple realities, an ever-changing roster of heroes, and sometimes villains, tasked with fixing damaged timelines. ***Exiles #1*** **(2001)**

GREAT LAKES AVENGERS Would-be super heroes based in the Midwestern U.S. Founding members include Mr. Immortal (Craig Hollis), Flatman (Val Ventura), Dinah Soar, Doorman (DeMarr Davis) and Big Bertha (Ashley Crawford). ***West Coast Avengers #46*** **(1989)**

IMPERIAL GUARD The extraterrestrial Shi'ar Empire's legion of superhumanoid champions, composed of representatives from various worlds. Unflinchingly loyal to whoever holds the Empire's throne, the Guard has been both ally and opposition to Earth's heroes. ***X-Men #107*** **(1977)**

NEXTWAVE SQUAD Heroes manipulated by the reality-warping "Mr. Beyond" into serving as a corporate-sponsored team for the Beyond Corporation©. Upon learning the corporation was secretly the terrorist cell SILENT, the team fought against it. Members include Elsa Bloodstone, the foul-mouthed Captain, Monica Rambeau, Tabitha Smith (Boom-Boom) and Aaron Stack (Machine Man). ***Nextwave #1*** **(2006)**

SLINGERS A quartet of young heroes assembled by 1940s hero Black Marvel (Dan Lyons). All four—Prodigy (Ritchie Gilmore), Hornet (Eddie McDonough), Dusk (Cassie St. Commons) and Ricochet (Johnny Gallo)—were bestowed costumed guises once temporarily adopted by Spider-Man (Peter Parker). ***Slingers #0*** **(1998)**

SQUADRON SUPREME A prestigious assemblage of costumed heroes native to Reality-712 whose attempt to eradicate their world's societal ills through a global pacification program led to infighting, deaths of multiple members and the rise of a totalitarian government following the program's collapse. ***Avengers #85*** **(1971)**

STARJAMMERS A band of spacefaring freebooters formed to combat the tyranny of the Shi'ar Empire through acts of piracy. Members include longtime captain Corsair (Christopher Summers, the father of X-Man Cyclops), Hepzibah, Ch'od, Sikorsky and Raza Longknife. ***X-Men #104*** **(1977)**

WARRIORS THREE Fandral the Dashing, Hogun the Grim and Volstagg the Enormous. Asgardian champions banded together to protect Asgard. ***Journey into Mystery #119*** **(1965)**

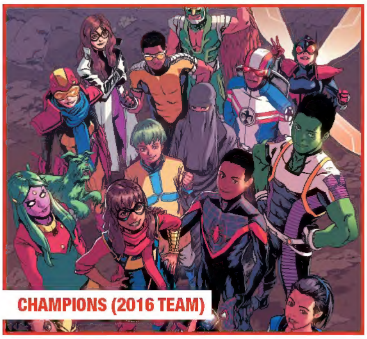
WINTER GUARD Previously the Soviet Super-Soldiers. A revolving roster of Russian superhumans assembled to represent their country and protect their people. Members include Darkstar (Laynia Petrovna), Vanguard (Nikolai Krylenko) and Ursa Major (Mikhail Ursus). ***Iron Man #109*** **(1978)**

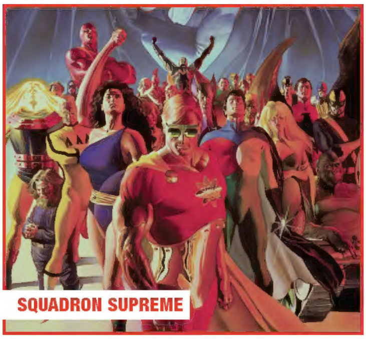
X-FACTOR INVESTIGATIONS A private investigations agency founded by mutant Jamie Madrox and composed of X-Men affiliates. Members include Layla Miller, Wolfsbane (Rahne Sinclair), M (Monet St. Croix), Shatterstar (Gaveedra-Seven), Rictor (Julio Richter), Siryn (Theresa Cassidy, later Banshee) and Strong Guy (Guido Carosella). ***Madrox #1*** **(2004)**

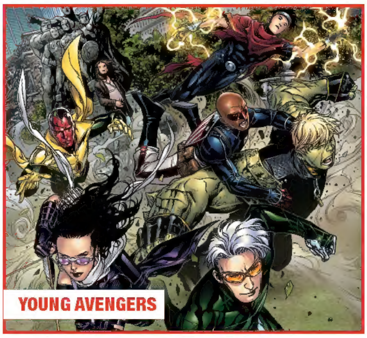
X-MEN A quartet of mutant students of Moira MacTaggert recruited by Charles Xavier to rescue the X-Men from the captivity of Krakoa the Living Island. Members include Vulcan (Gabriel Summers), Petra, Sway (Suzanne Chan) and Darwin (Armando Munoz). ***X-Men: Deadly Genesis #4*** **(2006)**

X-TERMINATORS X-Factor's young mutant wards. Fought to prevent demons from using abducted infant mutants to open a portal between Limbo (Otherplace) and Earth. Four of the group's members—Rusty Collins, Rictor (Julio Richter), Skids (Sally Blevins) and Boom-Boom (Tabitha Smith)—joined the New Mutants thereafter. ***X-Terminators #1*** **(1988)**

YOUNG AVENGERS Group of young heroes with ties to the Avengers assembled by Iron Lad (a young Nathaniel Richards before he became Kang the Conqueror) to combat his adult self. Members included Wiccan (Billy Kaplan), Hulkling (Teddy Altman), Patriot (Elijah Bradley), Stature (Cassie Lang), Speed (Tommy Shepherd), Hawkeye (Kate Bishop) and Vision (Jonas). ***Young Avengers #1*** **(2005)**


CHAMPIONS (2016 TEAM)


SQUADRON SUPREME


YOUNG AVENGERS

#5 VARIANT BY **JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ** & **ÁLVARO LÓPEZ**

#6 VARIANT BY **JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ** & **ÁLVARO LÓPEZ**

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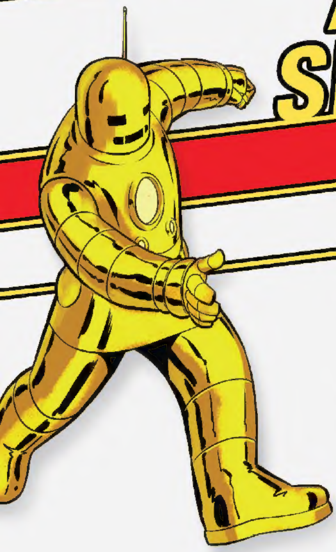

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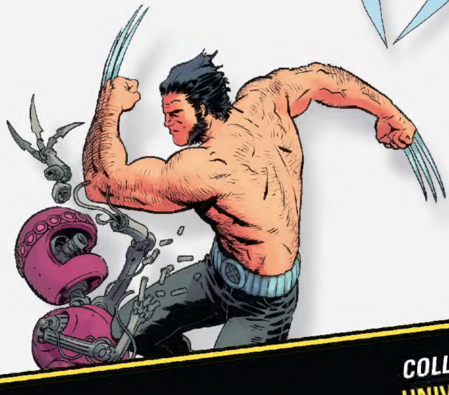

COLLECTING HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #1-6 — BY MARK WAID, JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ AND ÁLVARO LÓPEZ.

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